Holiday headaches

Pandemic wreaks havoc on holiday travel, but shopping goes on. **News, Page 4**

Electric school buses

State to use VW settlement funds to replace 43 diesel buses. **News, Page 6**

UConn-Marquette off

Wednesday's women's basketball game at the XL Center canceled. **Sports, Page 1**

Building clouds

Early sun, afternoon clouds; high of 36. **Sports, Page 6**

Hartford Courant

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A mental health crisis for children

In midst of pandemic, the need for behavioral health care has surged

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Demand for pediatric behavioral health care surged dramatically this year, as emergency rooms overflowed with children seeking urgent services and child psychiatrists were deluged with requests for help.

TOP10 STORIES OF 2021

Beginning in 2020 and continuing through 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a profoundly destabilizing effect on many children, as they navigated remote learning, reduced social contact and in some cases, illness and death within their families. For some children, returning to in-person learning this past fall also brought a new host of challenges and anxieties.

Providers across the state reported seeing not only more children with behavioral health needs, but also conditions that were more severe.

The Hartford Courant selected children's mental health as one of the top 10 stories for 2021. Courant editors selected the top stories of the year based on reader interest and significance.

"Children need more services. They are sicker," Dr. Linda Mayes, the chief of child psychiatry at Yale New Haven Children's Hospital, said last month. "They are staying in the health system longer and in our treatment system longer, which creates a backlog."

In early October, Connecticut Children's Medical Center was overwhelmed with the number of children arriving in its emergency department seeking behavioral health care. Many families in crisis had to wait for hours before obtaining a bed for their child — and in some cases, it was days before they obtained psychiatric care.

"We're having a medical and surgical surge, and a behavioral health surge at the same time," Dr. James E. Shmerling, the president and chief executive of the hospital, said. "We can handle a medical, surgical surge, but we're at a breaking point with the behavioral health."

The state Department of Public Health responded to the crisis at Children's by beginning to divert some older patients to other hospitals. But longer-term solu-

Turn to Children, Page 2

Travelers Cos., which employs thousands in downtown Hartford and is a global force in property-casualty insurance, told employees last week that it would indefinitely delay a broad-based return to the office set for Jan. 18. **JESSICA HILL PHOTOS/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

Omicron clouding return to the office

New variant leaves employers uncertain about fully opening doors despite vaccines

By Kenneth R. Gosselin
Hartford Courant

HARTFORD — As concern about the recent surge in the coronavirus mounts, employers in and around Hartford are facing the most uncertainty since the pandemic began two years ago, little able to predict when the workplace will return to something that resembles normal.

Travelers Cos., which employs thousands in downtown Hartford and is a global force in property-casualty insurance, told employees last week that it would indefinitely delay a broad-based return to the office set for Jan. 18, its eye on the spread of the new omicron variant of COVID-19.

CVS Health Corp., which owns Hartford-based health insurer Aetna, has made a similar decision to push back a wholesale return of office workers on Jan. 10 in a hybrid model of two or three days a week. CVS said it is monitoring the situation but has not set a new date.

Turn to Offices, Page 3

Yellow tape closes off the grand entrance plaza area of Travelers Tower in Hartford on Thursday.

Wind power a draw for manufacturing

Planners looking to develop hubs around projects in Bridgeport and New London

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

As Connecticut increasingly turns to the Atlantic Ocean to generate wind power, the state's aerospace and submarine manufacturing industries will be critical in supporting the zero-carbon energy initiatives.

The Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region, or seCTer, an economic development organization, has received a $500,000 federal grant to provide a detailed set of proposals for workforce and site development. It's a finalist for up to $100 million from Washington for workforce development.

"The emerging offshore wind industry has the potential to create many good-paying jobs in Connecticut and drive economic growth in towns along our shoreline," Gov. Ned Lamont said in announcing the grant.

Connecticut's advanced manufacturing sector gives the state an advantage in developing a wind turbine industry, according to a study by the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut. The state's maritime history and supply chain for submarine manufacturer General Dynamics Electric Boat and aerospace industry will help Connecticut adapt to advanced manufacturing requirements of wind turbine generators, the study said.

The study, funded by Revolution Wind, a partnership of Danish power company Ørsted and Eversource Energy, said it's a "critical state strength as existing assets can quickly pivot to offshore wind-related manufacturing for the early-mover projects," allowing developers and manufacturers to show local content and create economic benefits.

Revolution Wind has committed $75 million toward a $235 million expansion of the State Pier

Turn to Wind, Page 3

DESMOND TUTU 1931-2021

Cleric helped topple apartheid

Nobel Peace Prize laureate praised as champion of rights

By Marilyn Berger
The New York Times

Desmond Tutu, the cleric who used his pulpit and spirited oratory to help bring down apartheid in South Africa and then became the leading advocate of peaceful reconciliation under Black majority rule, died Sunday in Cape Town. He was 90.

His death was confirmed by the office of South Africa's president, Cyril Ramaphosa, who called the archbishop "a leader of principle and pragmatism who gave meaning to the biblical insight that faith without works is dead."

The cause of death was cancer, the Desmond and Leah Tutu Legacy Foundation said, adding that Tutu had died in a care facility. He was first diagnosed with prostate cancer in 1997 and was hospitalized several times in the years since.

As leader of the South African

Turn to Tutu, Page 2

Bills turn tables on Patriots

Josh Allen throws three touchdown passes as the Buffalo Bills retake the AFC East lead, factoring in tiebreakers, with a 33-21 victory over the New England Patriots in Foxborough, Mass. **Sports, Page 1**

NOTE TO READERS

Connecticut news can be found in the A section of The Hartford Courant through Jan. 4, except for Sunday, Jan. 2, when the Connecticut section will be included. We are reducing the size of the paper in order to give members of our staff time to spend with their families. The Connecticut section will return to the daily paper on Jan. 5.

Rick Green, director of content, rbgreen@courant.com

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FROM PAGE ONE

Tutu

from Page 1

Council of Churches and later as Anglican archbishop of Cape Town, Tutu led the church to the forefront of Black South Africans' decadeslong struggle for freedom. His voice was a powerful force for nonviolence in the anti-apartheid movement, earning him a Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

Former President Barack Obama was among several world leaders who praised Tutu.

"Archbishop Desmond Tutu was a mentor, a friend, and a moral compass for me and so many others. A universal spirit, Archbishop Tutu was grounded in the struggle for liberation and justice in his own country, but also concerned with injustice everywhere," Obama said.

When that movement triumphed in the early 1990s, Tutu prodded the country toward a new relationship between its white and Black citizens, and, as chair of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, he gathered testimony documenting the viciousness of apartheid.

Tutu preached that the policy of apartheid was as dehumanizing to the oppressors as it was to the oppressed. At home, he stood against looming violence and sought to bridge the chasm between Black and white; abroad, he urged economic sanctions against the South African government to force a change of policy.

But as much as he had inveighed against the apartheid-era leadership, he displayed equal disapproval of leading figures in the dominant African National Congress, which came to power under Nelson Mandela in the first fully democratic elections in 1994.

In 2004, the archbishop accused President Thabo Mbeki, Mandela's successor, of pursuing policies that enriched a tiny elite while "many, too many, of our people live in grueling, demeaning, dehumanizing poverty."

Desmond Tutu speaks in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in 2006. From prominent South African lawmakers to religious figures, many on social media honored Archbishop Tutu after his death as a patriot of peaceful principles who dedicated his life to combating injustice everywhere. **TYLER HICKS/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Although he and Mbeki later reconciled, the archbishop remained unhappy about the state of affairs in his country under its next president, Jacob Zuma, who had denied Mbeki another term despite being embroiled in scandal.

Then, in 2011, as critics accused the African National Congress of corruption and mismanagement, Tutu again assailed the government, this time in terms that would have once been unimaginable. "This government, our government, is worse than the apartheid government," he said, "because at least you were expecting it with the apartheid government."

He added: "I am warning you out of love, one day we will start praying for the defeat of the ANC government. You are disgraceful."

His words seemed prophetic when, in 2016, an alliance of religious leaders in South Africa joined other critics in urging Zuma to quit. In early 2018, Zuma was ousted after a power struggle with his deputy, Ramaphosa, who took over the presidency in February of that year.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation called the loss of Tutu "immeasurable."

For much of his life, Tutu was a spellbinding preacher, his voice by turns sonorous and high-pitched. He often descended from the pulpit to embrace his parishioners. Occasionally he would break into a pixielike dance in the aisles, punctuating his message with the wit and the chuckling that became his hallmark, inviting his audience into a jubilant bond of fellowship. While assuring his parishioners of God's love, he exhorted them to follow the path of nonviolence in their struggle.

His moral leadership, combined with his winning effervescence, made him something of a celebrity. He was photographed at social functions, appeared in documentaries and chatted with talk-show hosts. Even in late 2015, when his health seemed poor, he met with Prince Harry of Britain, who presented him with an honor on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II.

A compact, restless man — for many years he kept fit by jogging at 4:30 every morning — Tutu had piercing eyes that were barely concealed by rimless glasses. When he traveled abroad, he cut a handsome figure in his well-tailored gray suit over a magenta shirt with a white clerical collar.

Apparently convinced of the virtues of modesty, he never seemed to accustom himself to the perquisites of fame and high office. He was unfailingly on time, always expressed appreciation to the bellhops and maids sent to wait on him, and was uncomfortable with limousines and police escorts.

"You know, back home, when you hear a police siren, you figure that they are coming to get you," he once told a reporter from The Washington Post. "It still makes me a bit nervous riding with them."

Tutu also campaigned internationally for human rights, especially LGBTQ rights and same-sex marriage.

A seven-day mourning period is planned in Cape Town before Tutu's burial, including a two-day lying in state, an ecumenical service and an Anglican requiem mass at St. George's Cathedral in Cape Town. The southern city's landmark Table Mountain will be lit up in purple, the color of the robes Tutu wore as archbishop.

The Associated Press contributed.

Children

from Page 1

tions remain complex — and carving a path out of the crisis will be one of state lawmakers' top priorities during the upcoming legislative session, which begins in February.

During a legislative forum in November, House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, described the state's pediatric mental health crisis as "one of the more critical issues that we have to address."

As demand for pediatric care surges, behavioral health care providers say they have been hindered by staff shortages, as employees leave the field due to burn out or for more lucrative careers.

"Compensation for individuals working in our field has been stagnant for so long, and now we are in a real crisis with it," Heather Gates, the president and CEO of Community Health Resources said in October.

Providers and advocates have called on lawmakers to increase funding for community mental health services, address insurance reimbursement rate disparities and enforce mental health parity provisions. Additionally, many have championed stronger partnerships between schools and mobile crisis teams, to divert children away from the emergency departments, and deeper investments in preventative efforts.

"Not a week goes by [without hearing] from a family with a 12-year-old child with just morbid depression and suicidality, released from a hospital, back home, with a waiting list," Sarah Eagan, the state child advocate, said during a recent legislative hearing. "That happens all the time. Waiting list, waiting list, waiting list. People cannot leave the hospital. We wouldn't treat cardiac care that way, but we treat mental health crisis that way, and we can fix that."

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LOTTERY
Sunday, Dec. 26

PLAY3 DAY
2 2 3 **WB:** 3

PLAY4 DAY
5 9 3 8 **WB:** 4

The late numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery.

SATURDAY'S LATE NUMBERS

PLAY3 NIGHT
8 2 4 **WB:** 1

PLAY4 NIGHT
8 9 1 0 **WB:** 0

CASH 5
1 7 15 25 32

LUCKY FOR LIFE
2 5 7 29 44 **LB:** 8

POWERBALL
27 29 45 55 58 **PB:** 2 **PP:** 3

Tuesday's est. Lotto jackpot: $2.7M

Tuesday's est. Mega Millions jackpot: $201M

Wednesday's est. Powerball jackpot: $416M

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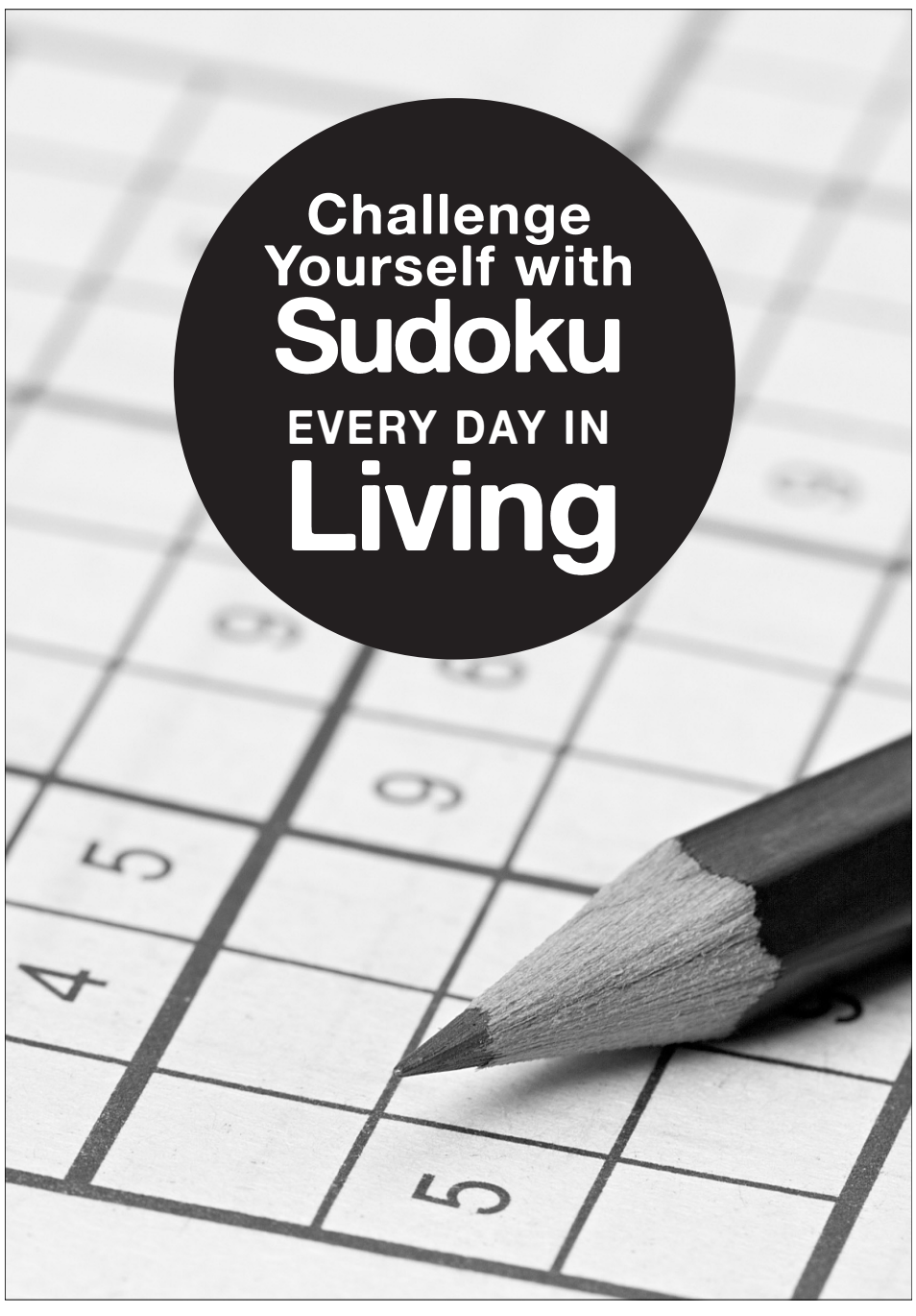

FROM PAGE ONE

US intelligence center still on hold

Entity targeting foreign influence beset by infighting

By Nomaan Merchant
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — As Russia was working to subvert U.S. elections and sow discord among Americans, Congress directed the creation of an intelligence center to lead efforts to stop interference by foreign adversaries.

But two years later, that center still is not close to opening.

Experts and intelligence officials broadly agree the proposed Foreign Malign Influence Center is a good idea. The U.S. has lacked a cohesive strategy to fight influence operations, they say, with not enough coordination among national security agencies. Adversaries that tried to interfere in the last two presidential elections continue to bombard Americans with disinformation and conspiracy theories.

But the intelligence community and Congress remain divided over the center's mission, budget and size, according to current and former officials. While separate efforts to counter interference continue, a person identified this year as a potential director has since been assigned elsewhere.

"It really is just giving a gift to Russia and China and others who clearly have their sights set not only on the midterm elections but on ongoing campaigns to destabilize American society," said David Salvo, deputy director of the Alliance for Securing Democracy and a senior fellow at the German Marshall Fund.

The nation's top intelligence official had advocated for the center before taking office. Director of National Intelligence Avril Haines last year co-chaired a German Marshall Fund task force supporting it. In a statement, spokeswoman Nicole de Haay said the director's office "is focused on creating a center to facilitate and integrate the Intelligence Community's efforts to address foreign malign influence."

But some lawmakers are concerned about further expanding the mission of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. ODNI was originally envisioned as a small coordinating body to address the intelligence-sharing failures preceding the Sept. 11 attacks. It has several centers that critics say are well-meaning attempts to solve problems but end up causing unnecessary duplication.

Senate Intelligence Committee Chairman Mark Warner of Virignia said that while he supports the center, there were "legitimate questions about how large such an organization should be and even about where it would fit" with existing government efforts to fight foreign interference.

It's unclear who would lead the center. Separately, there is also a vacancy for a new election threats executive after the previous executive, Shelby Pierson, ended her term and returned to another intelligence post. Pierson had been in the spotlight last year after giving lawmakers a closed-door briefing on Russia's efforts to intervene in the 2020 election in favor of former President Donald Trump. That angered Trump, who berated the then-director of national intelligence and later replaced him.

U.S. and other Western authorities have accused Russia of spreading disinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines, stealing data from local and state election servers, and pushing false stories intended to exploit divisions over race and civil rights. Intelligence agencies have found that Russia used influence operations to interfere with the 2016 presidential election in favor of Trump's campaign and conducted operations in Trump's favor in 2020.

The U.S. assessed China ultimately did not interfere in the 2020 election, but Beijing has been accused of promoting false theories about the COVID-19 pandemic and trying to sway businesses and government. Iran was accused of sponsoring emails intended to intimidate Democratic-leaning voters into supporting Trump.

Experts say the new center can warn Americans about interference and produce better information for policymakers. While the FBI, the National Security Agency and several other government agencies have long worked on foreign interference, "we are not organized in a way where we are building a coherent threat picture," said Jessica Brandt, an expert on foreign interference and disinformation at the Brookings Institution.

But there are risks in the intelligence community ramping up its monitoring of what Americans see and read. The FBI and NSA have been accused of unlawfully spying on Americans. That contributes to many Americans' distrust of the intelligence community, as do Trump's attacks on intelligence professionals and what he has derided as the "deep state."

Opponents note the U.S. also has a history of covert interference in other countries and has helped overthrow governments seen as anti-American. A column published by the Kremlin-backed RT.com alleged the proposed center "is just official cover for American intelligence interference in domestic politics."

The center "is going to have to figure out this enormous challenge to convey threats to American elections, American democracy, at a time when there seem to be two completely different realities," said Salvo of the German Marshall Fund.

Congress authorized the center in late 2019 and directed ODNI to create it. Several people who worked in intelligence matters at that time, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe confidential discussions, say they didn't know of any effort by the Trump White House to stop the center. Instead, leaders within ODNI disagreed on how to structure the new center or whether it should be a "virtual center" without an office.

After President Joe Biden took office, ODNI presented a plan for a small center with a few dozen staff members to the intelligence and appropriations committees in the House and Senate. But even as Congress required the center's creation, key lawmakers from both parties have expressed concerns about the plan.

A proposal to fund the center this summer failed and it is unlikely to be completed while the government is operating with temporary funding. The center may now be included if a full spending plan is approved in early 2022.

Offices

from Page 1

Some employers such as The Hartford Financial Services Group, which employs thousands at its headquarters in Hartford's Asylum Hill, appear to be taking a wait-and-see approach. Earlier this month, the property-casualty insurer said it expected a broad-based return on Jan. 18 but declined to elaborate on that statement last week.

The return of office workers is being watched closely as an indicator of the winding down of the pandemic and could have, experts say, far-reaching implications for culture and innovation inside of companies. The revitalization of urban areas around corporate offices, such as in downtown Hartford, that depend on the foot traffic of workers and corporate events also hangs in the balance, they say.

In downtown Hartford, workers are still dominant patrons of restaurants, bars, shops and other businesses. Apartment construction in the last decade is building a residential population but it is not yet large enough to support those businesses alone and to foster the opening of more.

Travelers chairman and chief executive Alan Schnitzer was frank in his assessment in a letter to employees announcing the delay: "Your next question is no doubt, 'Until when?' I wish I could tell you. Until we have a better sense of what course the pandemic is going to take, we just don't have clarity to answer that question."

How quickly answers emerge is anyone's guess, experts say, in a once-in-a-century health crisis that seemed to be on the wane after the introduction of vaccines, only to unexpectedly surge with the emergence of stronger variants such as delta and omicron.

David Souder, a professor of management at the UConn School of Business in Storrs, said employers of all sizes have had to wrestle with serving customers and, at the same time, figure out how to get employees working together as teams despite working remotely for almost two years.

CVS Health Corp., which owns Hartford-based health insurer Aetna, says it has delayed the return of its workers in early January due to a surge in the pandemic. Aetna's headquarters on Farmington Avenue is shown. **MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT**

"And it's different by industry, and it's even more different for each company," Souder said. "There's no template that you can just follow. No one has ever done it before. Companies that were born in what we would now call a hybrid or virtual environment were designed differently from companies that were forced there."

The pandemic already is dramatically reshaping the workplace at employers such as jet engine maker Pratt & Whitney. Pratt says it plans to make working from home permanent for thousands of salaried workers at its East Hartford headquarters, with access to meeting space when needed.

As the pandemic drags on, there could be other, less obvious consequences of working remotely for so long, said David Griggs, president and chief executive of the MetroHartford Alliance, the regional chamber of commerce.

Apartment construction, like this project around Hartford's Dunkin' Donuts Park, aims to build a downtown residential population that can support restaurants, bars, shops and other businesses — plus foster the opening of more. **KENNETH R. GOSSELIN/HARTFORD COURANT**

"The longer we are in this pandemic and remote-work environment, the more some of the subtleties start to become affected, like the culture," Griggs said. "It's really difficult to maintain company culture when there's nobody inside the four walls of the company."

Culture drives why an employee works for a company and the overarching principles that guide the thought and motivations that go into that work, Griggs said.

"Those can be lost over time," Griggs said.

The pandemic may have shown companies can be flexible, as employers suddenly shifted gears in early 2020, sending employees home to work and meeting by Zoom, Souder said.

"The downside is that all that creative energy that has been applied to this, how to react to a crisis, rather than how to be proactive about creating a better future," Souder said. "I don't think we're thinking a lot about that."

That isn't necessarily true of every employer, Souder said, "but a lot of our talented managers have been spending their time helping their folks get through this."

There are other concerns, Griggs said, including the difficulty in establishing formal — or even informal — mentors for young professionals seeking advice and guidance in a workplace that's remote and not prone to unscheduled, spontaneous conversation.

Holding back on a broad-based return to the office is a logical decision, Griggs said, considering the surge in the omicron variant and looming questions about just how deadly it might be. Companies want to protect their most important asset: their employees, Griggs said.

But this delay in the return to the workplace, Souder said, may be showing more of a shift than previous ones.

"You remember the phrase at the beginning was 'cancel everything' and now, it's more selective," Souder said.

Travelers CEO Schnitzer wrote to employees that they could come into the office on a voluntary basis if they have certified with the insurer that they are fully vaccinated.

CVS has instituted a similar policy.

"We don't want to pretend there is more certainty than there is, right?" Souder said. "We hope that it ends in '22 or at least becomes more manageable in '22, but there's no way to know."

Kenneth R. Gosselin can be reached at kgosselin@courant.com.

Wind

from Page 1

in New London. The state Connecticut Port Authority has committed $160 million.

When completed in 2023 the State Pier will be one of only three sites on the East Coast able to assemble and ship wind towers to the offshore wind farms, seCTer said. The other two deep-water ports are in New Jersey and Virginia.

The Connecticut Port Authority on Tuesday authorized the start of dredging at the State Pier. The final permit, approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, allows for in-water work including dredging deeper berths, reconstruction of a portion of the State Pier into a heavy-lift pad to support cargo and adding more than 7 acres to expand the amount and types of cargo that can be handled.

In this file photo, a lift boat, right, that serves as a work platform, assembles a wind turbine off Block Island, R.I. **MICHAEL DWYER/AP**

Work will now begin on upgrading the pier into a "modern structure capable of acting as a central hub for New England in the emerging clean energy manufacturing and offshore wind development industry," said Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd.

On Bridgeport's waterfront, Park City Wind, an Avangrid company, has leased land for a storage and assembly area for turbine parts.

The federal grant is to develop a more detailed plan for a second round of funding. Six proposals have been advanced to promote economic development.

One proposal would be to further develop an Offshore Wind Supply Chain database and portal established by the Connecticut Center for Advanced Technology and Park City Wind. The database has 3,800 companies entered.

The Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments also will help develop an Offshore Wind Industry Cluster by determining sites for what's called the Thames River Offshore Epicenter, a group of industrial sites along the shoreline and the Thames River in Groton, Ledyard, Montville, New London, Norwich, Preston and Waterford.

Another proposal is to support the Norwich Community Development Corp., a nonprofit economic development arm of Norwich, which has developed and manages the city's business park and has a purchase and sale agreement for a greenfield site. A new business park could be the first site ready to house wind power supply chain companies.

In addition, the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board will replicate its manufacturers' pipeline initiative to develop industry-ready workers.

And organizers are working to combine research work by the University of Connecticut with offshore wind developers and manufacturers of undersea vehicles to speed up development of offshore wind and undersea vehicle technologies.

UConn also will co-locate a business incubator to support a commercialization program for new businesses growth, particularly among owners who are women and communities of color.

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Omicron adds to holiday headaches

Airlines cancel more flights, but shoppers shrug off virus fears

By Bryan Gallion and Paul Wiseman
Associated Press

Travelers make their way through a terminal security checkpoint Sunday at Denver International Airport. **DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/AP**

NEWARK, N.J. — The latest COVID-19 variant is upending holiday plans for tens of thousands of travelers — but it didn't do much damage to holiday shopping.

Airlines canceled hundreds more flights Sunday, citing staffing problems tied to COVID-19, as the nation's travel woes extended beyond Christmas, with no clear indication when normal schedules would resume.

But shoppers shrugged off the omicron variant, and holiday sales rose at the fastest pace in 17 years, according to one spending measure.

Omicron is likely to slow the economy's unexpectedly strong rebound from last year's coronavirus recession, disrupting travel and likely discouraging some consumers from venturing out to shops, restaurants and bars. The variant could also add more heat to already simmering inflation by forcing shutdowns of factories and ports, delaying shipments and driving up prices.

"A full reopening of the U.S. economy will be delayed yet again," said Robin Brooks, chief economist at the Institute of International Finance, a trade group of financial firms.

But it's not yet clear how deep the hurt will go or how long it will last.

For now, the variant is playing havoc with travel. More than 1,100 flights entering, leaving or flying within the U.S. were called off, according to the flight-tracking website FlightAware. That figure was down from nearly 1,000 Saturday. About 130 flights were already canceled for Monday.

Delta, United and JetBlue have blamed the omicron variant of the coronavirus for staffing shortages that forced cancellations.

Globally, airlines scrapped more than 2,700 flights as of Sunday evening, nearing the more than 2,800 cancellations the day before, FlightAware's data showed. The site does not say why flights are canceled.

JetBlue scrapped 11% of its flights Sunday. Delta and United both canceled 5%, according to FlightAware. The three airlines canceled more than 10% of their scheduled flights Saturday.

Despite omicron, American consumers appeared undaunted.

Mastercard Spending Pulse, which tracks all kinds of payments including cash and debit cards, reported Sunday that holiday sales had risen 8.5% from a year earlier, the biggest annual gain in 17 years.

Mastercard SpendingPulse had expected a 8.8% increase.

The results, which covered Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, were fueled by purchases of clothing and jewelry. Holiday sales were up 10.7% compared with the pre-pandemic 2019 holiday period.

After omicron hit, some consumers shifted their spending to e-commerce, but sales stayed strong.

"I feel really good about how the season played out," said Steve Sadove, senior adviser to Mastercard and former CEO of Saks Inc. "When people feel a little bit uncomfortable, you'll see a little bit of a pickup in online and a little bit of a slowdown in store performance."

Sadove said consumers are "learning to live" with what COVID-19 throws at them.

"You're coming out of 2021 with quite a bit of consumer momentum," he said.

Also Sunday, the nation's top infectious disease doctor acknowledged that he was frustrated with the limited supply of COVID-19 tests.

Demand for tests has risen amid the surge fueled by the omicron variant. "We've obviously got to do better," Dr. Anthony Fauci said in an interview that aired Sunday on ABC's "This Week."

"I think things will improve greatly as we get into January, but that doesn't help us today and tomorrow," Fauci said.

Fauci said he was pleased with evidence that omicron causes less severe illness for most people. But he warned against complacency because the rapid spread of the disease could "override a real diminution in severity," because so many more people could get infected.

There are still many questions about how bad the omicron variant surge will be in the U.S., Johns Hopkins infectious disease specialist Dr. Amesh Adalja said Sunday.

"There are multiple signals showing decreased severity. But the problem is, we have many high-risk individuals that are not vaccinated in some parts of the country. And there are hospitals in those regions that already are dealing with a lot of delta patients," Adalja said.

Meanwhile, in Europe, France recorded more than 100,000 virus infections in a single day for the first time in the pandemic. COVID-19 hospitalizations have doubled over the past month as omicron complicates the French government's efforts to stave off a new lockdown.

More than 1 in 100 people in the Paris region have tested positive in the past week, according to the regional health service. Most new infections are linked to omicron, which government experts predict will be dominant in France in the coming days. Omicron is already dominant in Britain, right across the English Channel.

France's overall death toll stands at more than 122,000.

President Emmanuel Macron's government planned emergency meetings for Monday to discuss next steps. Some scientists and educators have urged delaying the post-holiday return to school or suggested reimposing a curfew.

FEMA program covers COVID-19 funeral costs

Cemetery owner says many families unaware of benefit

By Steve LeBlanc
Associated Press

Staffers transfer a dead COVID-19 patient to a loading dock to hand off to a funeral home in Shreveport, La. A federal program reimburses families for funeral costs. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

BOSTON — When Wanda Olson's son-in-law died in March after contracting COVID-19, she and her daughter had to grapple with more than grief. They had to come up with money for a cremation.

Even without a funeral, the bill came to nearly $2,000, a sum that Olson initially covered. She and her daughter then learned of a federal program that reimburses families up to $9,000 for funeral costs for loved ones who died of COVID-19. Olson's daughter submitted an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, received a deposit by June and was able to reimburse her mother the $1,974.

"Had this not been available, we would have been paying the money ourselves," said Olson, 80, of Villa Rica, Georgia. "There wasn't any red tape."

As of Dec. 6, about 226,000 people had shared in the nearly $1.5 billion that FEMA has spent on funeral costs that occurred after Jan. 20, 2020, the date of the first confirmed case of COVID-19 in the U.S. With the nation's coronavirus death toll topping 800,000, it's clear that many families who are eligible for reimbursement have yet to take advantage of the funeral benefit.

To be eligible for reimbursement, death certificates for those who died after May 16, 2020, must indicate that the death was attributed to COVID-19.

For deaths that occurred in the early months of the pandemic — from Jan. 20 to May 16, 2020 — death certificates must be accompanied with a signed statement from a medical examiner, coroner or the certifying official listed on the certificate indicating that COVID-19 was the cause or a contributing cause of death.

The percentage of individuals who have been reimbursed varies dramatically from state to state — from nearly 40% in North Carolina and Maryland to fewer than 15% in Idaho and Oregon, according to data compiled by FEMA.

While the reimbursement must go directly to individuals, some funeral directors have taken on the task of informing grieving families of the benefit.

After the benefit was first announced, David Shipper, owner of the Sunset Funeral Home, Cremation Center & Cemetery in Evansville, Indiana, took out ads to let people know that help was available if they qualified.

"Nine thousand dollars — that's a lot of money. We wanted to find a way to tell people about it," he said. "We stopped advertising some time ago, but when we have a new family with a death from COVID, we tell them about the program."

Workers at the home will sit down with families, gather the needed paperwork, contact FEMA on the phone and help walk them through the process if they ask, he said.

Many families may be unaware of the benefit, but others may opt against seeking the money out of reluctance to revisit the pain of the death, Shipper said.

The largest states account for some of the biggest shares of the FEMA reimbursement money.

The program has paid out more than 21,000 reimbursements in California and Texas, which have both reported more than 74,000 COVID-19 deaths. Residents applied for more than $141 million in each state.

The fewest number of reimbursements have occurred in Vermont, where 123 people were awarded a total of about $704,000.

Expenses covered under the FEMA program include funeral services, cremation and interment, as well as the costs for caskets or urns, burial plots or cremation niches, markers or headstones, transportation or transfer of remains, clergy or officiant services, and the use of funeral home equipment or staff.

The program has been funded using federal stimulus funds. No online applications are allowed.

After all required documents are received and verified, it typically takes fewer than 30 days to determine if an individual is eligible, according to FEMA. Once eligibility is confirmed, applicants who request direct deposit may receive the money in a matter of days. It may take longer for applicants who request a check.

The reimbursement is one way of helping ease the emotional and financial burden that the pandemic has wreaked on communities across the country according to Ellen Wynn McBrayer, president of Jones-Wynn Funeral Homes & Crematory in Villa Rica, Georgia.

She recalled one woman who lost her mother, husband and one of her children to the disease in the span of six months.

"To have to help a grieving family is hard on a normal day, but to see so many deaths," she said. "COVID has just broken a lot of hearts and taken a lot of lives."

Israeli farmers protest a policy to curb taxes on imported agricultural produce Sunday in the Golan Heights. Israel plans new investment in the region. **MENAHEM KAHANA/GETTY-AFP**

Israel to expand settlements in Golan Heights

Associated Press

MEVO HAMA, Golan Heights — Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett said Sunday that the country intends to double the amount of settlers living in the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights with a multi-million-dollar plan meant to further consolidate Israel's hold on the territory it captured from Syria more than five decades ago.

Bennett said the new investment in the region was prompted by the Trump administration's recognition of Israeli sovereignty over the swath of land and by the Biden administration's indication that it will not soon challenge that decision.

"This is our moment. This is the moment of the Golan Heights," Bennett said at a Cabinet meeting in the Golan Heights. "After long and static years in terms of the scope of settlement, our goal today is to double settlement in the Golan Heights."

Bennett's office said the government would invest more than $300 million into developing the Golan, including the establishment of two new settlements as well as investments in tourism, industry, clean energy and technology that would create several thousand jobs.

Entrenching Israeli control over the territory would complicate any future attempt to forge peace with Syria, which claims the Golan Heights.

Israel captured the Golan Heights in the 1967 Mideast war and later annexed the territory, promoting settlement and agriculture there as well as creating a thriving local tourism industry. The U.S. was the first country to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan, which the rest of the international community regards as Israeli-occupied.

Some 50,000 people live in the Golan Heights — roughly half Jewish Israelis and half in Druze Arab villages that formerly were part of Syria.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Storm dumps snow, closes mountain routes in California

From news services

COLFAX, Calif. — A major weekend storm caused whiteout conditions and closed key highways amid blowing snow in mountains of Northern California and Nevada, with forecasters warning that travel in the Sierra Nevada could be difficult for several days.

Authorities near Reno, Nevada, reported a 20-car pileup on Interstate 395 where drivers described whiteout conditions. And a 70-mile stretch of Interstate 80 was shut until at least Monday from Colfax, California to the Nevada state line.

The California Department of Transportation also closed other mountain routes while warning of poor visibility and slippery conditions for drivers.

"Expect major travel delays on all roads," the National Weather Service office in Reno said on Twitter. "Today is the type of day to just stay home if you can. More snow is on the way too!"

The weather service issued a winter storm warning for greater Lake Tahoe until 1 a.m. Tuesday because of possible "widespread whiteout conditions" and wind gusts that could top 45 mph.

Turbulent weather stretched from Southern California to Seattle, where several of inches of snow fell Sunday.

Rock slides caused by heavy rain closed more than 40 miles of coastal Highway 1 in the Big Sur region south of the San Francisco Bay Area. There was no estimate for the reopening of the scenic stretch that is frequently shut after wet weather.

The latest in a series of blustery storms hit Southern California with heavy rain and wind that flooded streets and knocked down power lines late Saturday.

Powerful gusts toppled trees, damaged carports and blew a track-and-field shed from a Goleta high school into a front yard two blocks away, according to the Santa Barbara County Fire Department.

No injuries were reported.

Mich. kidnapping plot: Defense attorneys want to dismiss the indictment against five men accused of plotting to kidnap Gov. Gretchen Whitmer because of what they described as "egregious overreaching" by federal agents and informants, according to a court filing.

In the 20-page motion filed Saturday night, defense attorneys allege FBI agents and federal prosecutors invented a conspiracy and entrapped people who could face up to life in prison. They're asking U.S. District Judge Robert Jonker to dismiss the conspiracy charge.

The request comes after developments and claims about the government's team, including the conviction of Richard Trask, an FBI special agent who was arrested on a domestic violence charge and later fired and convicted of a misdemeanor.

Five people are charged with kidnapping conspiracy and face a trial March 8 in Grand Rapids. They have pleaded not guilty and claim to be victims of entrapment.

Brazilian dams break: Two dams broke Sunday in northeastern Brazil, threatening worse flooding in a rain-drenched region that has already seen thousands forced to flee their homes.

Beach day: People enjoy a summer day Sunday at Ipanema Beach in Rio de Janeiro. Brazil's beaches are crowded despite the spread of the omicron variant. The city is still planning a New Year's Eve party at Copacabana Beach. Brazil has logged over 22.2 million infections and more than 618,000 deaths from COVID-19, according to Johns Hopkins University. **BUDA MENDES/GETTY**

The city governments of Jussiape and Itambe posted warnings on social media urging people to seek safety.

The Bahia state government's press office said heavy rains have caused floods that have killed 18 people and affected 72 cities since early November, forcing more than 4,000 from their homes and complicating access to some communities.

Bodies wash ashore: The bodies of 27 Europe-bound migrants, including a baby and two women, have washed ashore in western Libya, the country's Red Crescent said.

The bodies were found late Saturday in two locations in the coastal town of Khoms, about 75 miles east of the capital city of Tripoli, the Red Crescent's branch there said.

Three other migrants were rescued, and search efforts were underway for others, it said.

The dead migrants likely drowned in recent shipwrecks off Libya, authorities said.

Around 1,500 migrants have drowned in boat mishaps and shipwrecks on the route across the central Mediterranean this year, according to the U.N. migration agency..

Taliban dissolutions: The Taliban dissolved Afghanistan's two election commissions as well as two state ministries, an official said Sunday.

Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for Afghanistan's Taliban-run government, called them "unnecessary institutes for the current situation in Afghanistan."

Both elections commissions were mandated to administer and supervise all types of elections in the country, including presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections.

Karimi said the Taliban also dissolved the Ministry for Peace and the Ministry of Parliamentarian Affairs.

He said they were unnecessary in the government's current structure.

India factory explosion: A factory boiler exploded in eastern India on Sunday, killing at least six workers and injuring six others, police said.

Rescuers were looking for any workers who may be trapped in the rubble of the factory that produced snack foods in an industrial area 60 miles north of Patna, the Bihar state capital.

The cause of the blast in Muzaffarpur was being investigated, said police officer Ram Naresh Paswan. He said the death toll was likely to rise as four of the injured were critical.

Old church's final service: A Pennsylvania church with a 221-year history held its final service and is scheduled to close at the end of the year because of declining membership and attendance.

The First Presbyterian Church of Bellefonte, which is nearly as old as the borough itself, held the final scheduled service Christmas Eve.

The church was established in 1800 by the same men who founded Bellefonte in 1795 at a time when there were only 16 states and counted among its members two former Pennsylvania governors. The church met at the courthouse for almost two decades and then in a stone edifice; the current structure was built shortly after the Civil War.

It was estimated the church had about 40 members before the pandemic, now down to 25.

The 15,000-square-foot church is scheduled to close Dec. 31; the future of the building hasn't been determined. Video of the final service posted on Facebook included references to "the pain of saying goodbye to one another" but a reminder that "challenges aren't anything new to humanity."

Hartford Courant
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Plan aims to protect rare whales

Public hearings set over electronically tracking lobster boats

Associated Press

PORTSMOUTH, N.H. — Interstate fishing managers are holding a series of public hearings next month about a plan to implement electronic tracking for lobster boats to provide better protection for the North Atlantic right whale.

An arm of the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission is considering implementing the tracking requirements for lobster and Jonah crab boats that have federal permits. Regulators have said the requirement could help protect rare North Atlantic right whales and give scientists more information about the lobster and crab population.

The commission said that "this action is being taken to reduce the risks to endangered North Atlantic right whales and other large whales associated with the presence of fishing gear in waters where these animals occur."

The North Atlantic right whale, which has been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act since 1970, is considered one of the rarest marine mammals in the world. Scientists estimate that there may be fewer than 400 of them left.

Right whales can live at least 70 years and possibly as long as 100. Since 2017, though, the species has been experiencing what NOAA calls an "Unusual Mortality Event." Thirty-two whales were reported dead and another 13 seriously injured in the last three years, meaning about 10% of the remaining population was affected.

Human-driven causes of death have caused the average life span to plummet, scientists say, to about 45 for females and 65 for males. Female right whales are delivering offspring about half as frequently as in previous years, posing a problem for population recovery.

A Jan. 19 hearing will be held via webinar and in person at the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The other hearings will be held virtually.

The virtual hearings will be for specific states or regional in nature. The first, on Jan. 12, will focus on Connecticut and New York. Others are slated for mid-Atlantic states, Maine and Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

The lobster industry is facing a host of new rules to protect the right whales, which are vulnerable to entanglement in fishing gear.

Each winter, the whales head south from Canada and New England to the warm, shallow waters of South Carolina, Georgia and Florida's east coast. This is the only place the whales are known to birth and feed their young, scientists say.

Courant staff writer Seamus McAvoy contributed to this story.

Celebrating 'uketopia'

Man who helped popularize instrument shares 'Adventures in the Ukulele World' in book

By Christopher Arnott
Hartford Courant

All Jim Beloff's activities revolve around one tiny, understated four-string instrument: the ukulele. The singer/songwriter, musicologist and music teacher, who lives in Clinton, has been a major figure in the ukulele world and has documented his love of the instrument in a new book, "Uketopia: Adventures in the Ukulele World."

Beloff was a major force in what has become known as the "third wave" of the ukulele's popularity. The first wave was in the 1920s, he explained, "when many people were first introduced to the culture of Hawaii." The second wave "is attributable to Arthur Godfrey in the 1950s"; the popular radio and TV host would play his uke on the air, spurring sales of the instrument (especially cheap space-age plastic models.)

The third wave encompasses the 1990s to the present day, a time when the instrument could increasingly be heard at coffeehouses and on pop records (including Train's hit "Hey, Soul Sister"). Ukulele clubs formed and professional guitarists all confessed to having a uke in the closet.

"There was a moment," Beloff told The Courant last week, "when a backlash was occurring: 'Enough already with the hipster with the ukulele!' "

Yet the uke, humble as ever, survived the disdain and ridicule.

"There's something beautiful, stripped down, about a performer with just a small instrument and a quiet voice, something vulnerable and intimate," Beloff said.

As Beloff recounts in his book, the impulsive purchase of a vintage tenor-sized uke from the 1950s for $250 at the Rose Bowl Flea Market in Pasadena, California, in 1992 led directly to him quitting his ad sales job for Billboard magazine and becoming a full-time promoter of the underrated four-string instrument. He was assisted in this abrupt career shift by his wife Liz, who had fronted him the funds to purchase that uke in Pasadena. That purchase is immortalized in the name of the Beloff's business, Flea Market Music.

Clinton resident and internationally known ukulele expert Jim Beloff has published his memoir, ""Uketopia: Adventures in the Ukulele World."
MARILYN CATASUS/COURTESY

Beloff had grown up in Meriden and attended Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford. He returned to Connecticut in the 1990s, shortly after his conversion from advertising salesman to ukulele advocate.

Beloff had studied musical theater composition at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., which led to him becoming a production assistant on the Broadway musical "1600 Pennsylvania Avenue" in 1975 while still in school. He had developed his own music projects, including one about a Utopian commune that existed in Wallingford in the 1850s. The uke gave him a fresh outlet with which to explore these ideas.

"I like the ukulele for writing songs," he said. As for other people's songs, "Playing 'Five Foot Two, Eyes of Blue' on a ukulele just felt right. A song like that lives and breathes on the ukulele."

Under the nickname "Jumpin' Jim," Beloff published a stack of uke songbooks, proving himself to be one of the most adept arrangers for the instruments, with a rare feel for the uke's singular voice and tone. He wrote the first extensive history of the ukulele, "The Ukulele: A Visual History (Backbeat Books, 2003).

He taught uke classes and performed around the country. One of his boldest moves was to conceive of a new hip modern flat-bottomed ukulele design. These "Fluke" ukuleles, as well as the smaller "Flea" and other models, are crafted by Beloff's brother-in-law at a small studio/shop in Sheffield, Mass., and have become commonplace at ukulele concerts and clubs.

Mainly, Beloff simply spread his outsized affection for this undersized musical marvel. One of the best things about the "Uketopia" book is that, after decades of extoling the work of other ukulele icons, from old-school practitioners like Lyle Ritz to the contemporary virtuoso player Jake Shimabukuro, Beloff finally gets to write about himself.

"I originally pitched 'Uketopia' as a scrapbook," Beloff says, "with pictures of my ukuleles and reprints of articles I'd written, interspersed with my best tips of how to play. I would tell my stories, but in more of a discreet way." Ultimately, the stories went to the forefront — those who want instruction tips will just have to get one of his dozens of songbooks.

In the book, Beloff describes how he came to meet some of the world's celebrity ukulele enthusiasts, from George Harrison (who contributed an appreciation of the instrument to one of the "Jumpin' Jim" songbooks, reprinted in "Uketopia" with a doodle of a small hoofed animal with a uke for a snout and the caption "Some are made from pigs!") to Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder (who released an entire solo album of ukulele songs, which Beloff was commissioned to turn into a songbook).

"Uketopia" also has an audio component. Beloff compiled a Spotify playlist that comprises virtually "all the music I talk about in the book."

One song has the refrain "This could be my lucky day." As detailed in his book "Uketopia," he might have had his luckiest day when he found that flea market uke.

Christopher Arnott can be reached at carnott@courant.com.

State will upgrade 43 school buses

Funds from Volkswagen settlement to be used to buy electric vehicles

By Staff

Connecticut will use $12.7 million from the Volkswagen emissions fraud settlement to fund the purchase of electric school buses throughout the state, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection announced Wednesday.

The funds, representing all of this round's funding from the automaker, will go toward replacing 43 diesel school buses in Middletown, New Britain, Hamden, Bethel, Ansonia and Griswold. It's the largest investment in electric school buses in Connecticut.

"Climate change is not a future problem. It's real. It's now, and it cannot be ignored," Gov. Ned Lamont said in a release.

The change from diesel to electric buses is a win for children's health, particularly in communities that have suffered disproportionately from air pollution, Lamont said.

"Every day thousands of children ride school buses throughout Connecticut. Diesel-powered school buses are a source of fine particulate matter and other harmful emissions that can impact developing lungs," he said.

Diesel emissions contain pollutants associated with reduced lung function and increased incidences of pneumonia in children, according to the Centers for Disease Control. The exhaust is also carcinogenic.

"The selected projects will provide direct benefits to residents in environmental justice communities where levels of fine particulate matter can be up to 20% higher than in less densely populated parts of the state," DEEP Commissioner Katie Dykes said in a statement. "Fine particulate matter is known to impact public health and can be an asthma trigger. According to a 2021 study of the most challenging places to live with asthma, New Haven is ranked fifth nationally. The selected projects will reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions while providing direct benefits to residents in environmental justice communities that have historically borne disproportionate impacts of air pollution from vehicle traffic."

In addition to the school buses — 16 for First Student Inc. serving Bethel, Hamden, and Stamford; four at DATTCO in New Britain; six for DATTCO in Middletown; and 17 at Student Transportation of America Inc., serving Ansonia and Griswold — settlement funds will also go toward replacement of a 50-year-old diesel crane at the New Haven port. The new electric crane will be among the first of its kind on the East Coast, according to DEEP.

PETS UP FOR ADOPTION

Sophie

Help Sophie get the holiday miracle she deserves. She is a very sweet 1-year-old girl who lost both of her eyes to an infection. She is now healthy and looking for her forever home. Although she is blind, she can quickly and easily become a loving and special addition to your family. Please consider adopting Sophie. If interested please call AFOC at 860-693-0303.

For more information or to submit a pet for adoption, please email pets@courant.com.

Please include a photo, a description of the pet including age and personality, and contact information including an email address and a phone number.

Dylan and Jett

Dylan and Jett are so bonded and absolutely adorable. This brother/sister pair born in April are sweet, curious and love to play. They're so cute chasing each other and then curling up together to cuddle. They love to bat their toys around and play interactively with their people, too. They have experience living with adult cats and especially love one who looks like their mother. They are on the shy side so will thrive with someone who appreciates that and will help them gain confidence. To learn more about Dylan and Jett, please contact Our Companions at 860-242-9999 or email Helpline@OurCompanions.org.

Milo

Milo is a handsome 6-year-old who loves his belly rubbed and lots of petting. He thrives on attention and is affectionate. Milo will do well in a home with a screened porch (or "catio") where he can spend his days safely enclosed but with fresh air. He would do well in a home with another friendly cat, too. While Milo is FIV+, he is very healthy and simply requires annual vet appointments. But he doesn't like being picked up and put in a carrier. Options may be to have a vet-doc visit the home or gently coerce him into the carrier in stress-free ways. Milo has a lot of personality that would bring joy to a special home. No dogs. If interested, go to CatTalesCT.org/cats/Milo-2 or call 860-344-9043 or email info@CatTalesCT.org.

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Nuclear power needed for future energy

I've read multiple articles from Courant reporter Stephen Singer regarding the transition from fossil fuels to electric vehicles. Presently, millions of vehicles use about 10-20 gallons of fuel a week. That equivalent amount of energy doesn't exist in our current electrical power grid, and it can't be carried with existing transmission lines. I have no confidence that wind and solar power will be able to magically replace our fossil-fuel-fired plants. The only serious response to climate change will be to increase the use of nuclear power and improve local transmission lines so all the electric cars can charge at home. We had a nuclear plant in Haddam, but it was removed by environmentalists citing aesthetic and climate concerns.

I have seen no reporting from The Courant regarding how much more energy it will take to completely convert from gasoline cars to electric. Let's put some definitive information out to the public so we understand how big of a job it will be and how long it will take to increase the capacity of our aging power grid.

Brian O'Neill, Haddam

Candelora mixes politics with health advances

Here's one for the books on the battle against COVID-19. Gov. Ned Lamont's administration has developed an app to verify vaccinations [Connecticut, Page 1, Dec. 18, GOP skeptical over digital vaccination cards"]. No more carrying around vaccination cards that could be lost or stolen.

But Republican leader Vincent Candelora can't keep politics out of Lamont's creative and efficient method for ensuring vaccine compliance. Candelora says the app could lead to data breaches. Anyone who uses a cellphone is vulnerable to loss of privacy, so, that's a non-starter argument. Then Candelora offers concerns that use of the app to allow entry to commercial facilities could require proof of application for essential services. Wow. Wake up, Mr. Candelora. Vaccinated people still wear masks as a choice. Unvaccinated people should wear masks. No one wants a mask mandate, so the solution is to require proof of vaccination, and an app offers the safest and best method of proof. Mr. Candelora needs to keep politics out of public health administration.

Paul M. Shimer, Vernon

Under Biden, tougher rules for citizens than non-citizens

There have been numerous letters printed from outraged citizens condemning their fellow Americans for not getting vaccinated or complying with mask mandates. Are these same citizens aware of or concerned about the thousands of immigrants who have crossed our southern border over the past several months? Do these citizens know how many of these immigrants have been tested or vaccinated before they have been transported to cities across our country?

While the Biden administration subjects American citizens to rules and mandates, those same rules and mandates are not being applied to the people who come here without permission. Adding insult to injury, Americans who do not comply with the vaccine mandates are losing their jobs. This has affected health care workers, law enforcement officers, military personnel and school teachers. Where is the outrage to this injustice?

Marina Cintron, Vernon

Tell Us Your Story

Please send us your true stories, written in your voice.

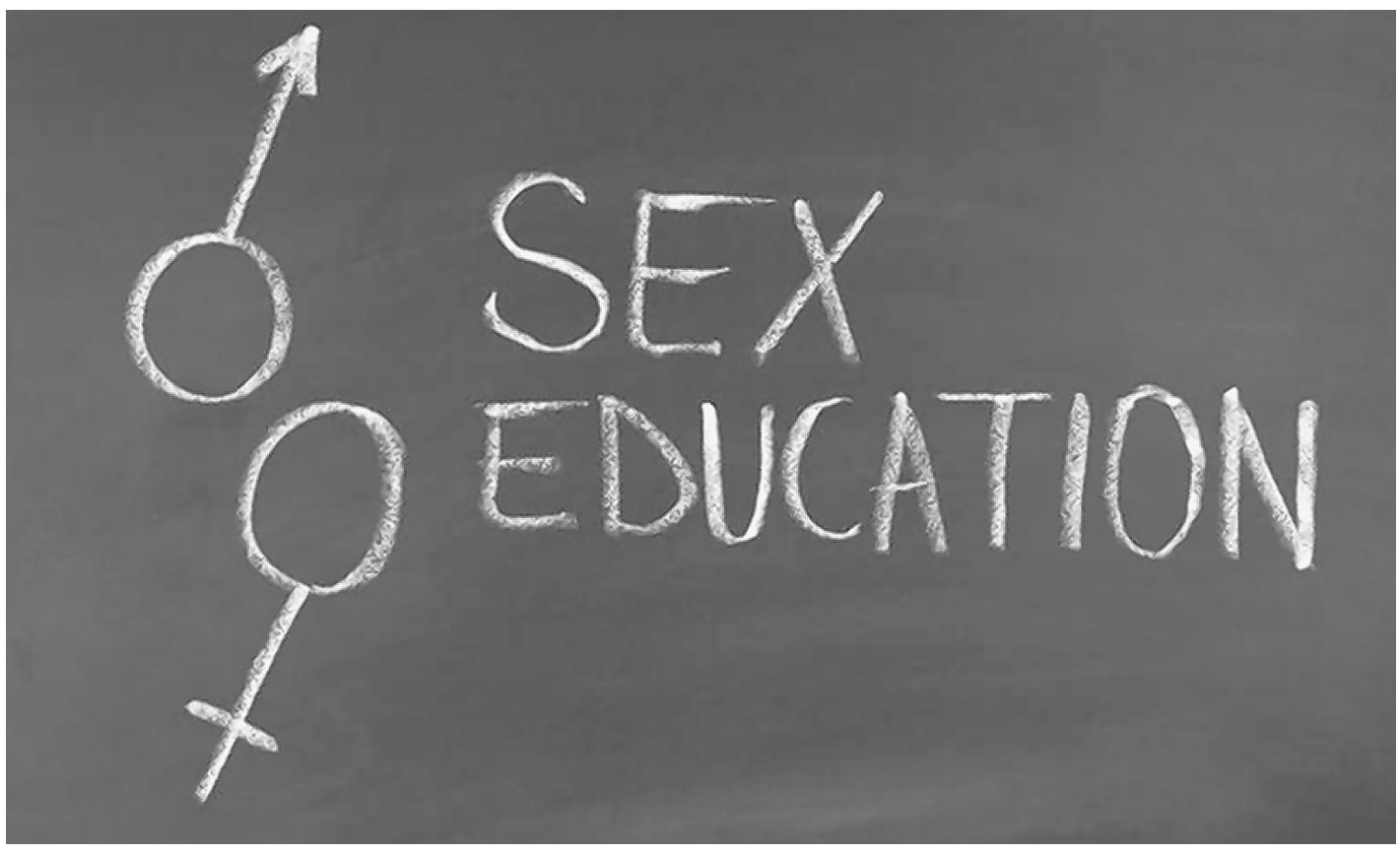
Love Etc. Stories from the heart — your essays about emotional life in the 21st century.

Why I... In which you explain why you feel so strongly about something in Connecticut.

First Person: In which you explain a deeply private issue against the backdrop of social and economic forces.

Living Here: What is it really like to live in Connecticut?

We welcome all submissions and will publish the best. We especially look for younger writers and those whose voices aren't heard often enough. Essays should be 600-700 words, written in the first person and emailed to oped@courant.com.



ISTOCKPHOTO.COM

OP-ED

Connecticut schools need to use more inclusive sex ed curriculum

By MaTaeya McFadden

It's 2021. It is time for Connecticut schools to pivot toward inclusive sex education.

According to the Connecticut SIECUS (Sexual Information and Education Council in the United States), Connecticut school curriculum is required to only teach about human growth, human development and disease prevention. They are not required to teach topics like consent, gender identity and sexual orientation, even though instructions on how to teach those subjects are provided.

One reason for Connecticut schools to be more inclusive is so they don't ignore the diverse populations of students within these schools. Each student has different needs and experiences that aren't being considered when teaching sex education.

Sex education already is primarily catered to cisgender and heterosexual individuals given the fact that it centers around prevention of unwanted pregnancies and more. This primary targeting leaves LGBTQ+ students out of the picture, leaving them to resort to other measures in order to gain knowledge of one's sex life. This is extremely dangerous to the health of students.

But not only does this noninclusivity impact students within the LGBTQ+ community but it also negatively impacts heterosexual students because of what is known as heteronormative ideology. This is the belief that there should be and are only two opposing genders with associated gender roles to match their assigned sex.

This ideology, which is strongly taught within sex education, confines heterosexual students into a box on what they should and should not do regarding sex. Especially since Connecticut schools allow for abstinence-based sex education to be taught, this further limits the knowledge students have about sex because it completely disregards sex as an option altogether.

Another reason is not only are students in danger when it comes to their health without sex education, but LGBTQ+ students are specifically in danger with noninclusive sex education, which only strengthens why Connecticut schools need to make a shift to inclusivity.

It already has been reported that LGBTQ+ youth face increased rates of sexually transmitted diseases, higher rates of substance abuse and risky sexual behavior. This has a lot to do with the fact that there is either no sex education for LGBTQ+ youth or just negative sex education that just criticizes their sexuality; therefore, many LGBTQ+ youth resort to the internet for the lack of information they are receiving. And studies have shown that sexual risk behaviors from LGBTQ+ students are significantly lower in schools with inclusive sex education compared to noninclusive sex education.

But some might argue that subjecting students to LGBTQ+ topics within sex education can be pushing these sexual orientations onto students. Specifically, parents from Southington expressed deep concern after a video titled "How To Be A LGBTQIA+ Ally" was shown to seventh- and eighth-graders at Kennedy Middle School. Some parents said that sexuality shouldn't be taught to students because they could begin to identify as one of the many sexualities.

But the video in question was just teaching students how to be respectful and inclusive to their peers who might identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community. But even so, sexuality is not a contagious disease and viewing it as such just ostracizes LGBTQ+ youth, making them even more fearful of reaching out for insight.

Overall, as a former high school student at a Connecticut school who also is a part of the LGBTQ+ community, I was one of many who didn't receive a sex education, much less an inclusive one.

This resulted in me relying heavily on my peers and social media for information. It also was clear to me that many of my friends, also from Connecticut schools, didn't know much about sex education either, which placed all of us in a tremendous amount of danger health-wise; all the more stressing why inclusive sex education is so significant in schools. The Connecticut school system needs to make a more inclusive sex education curriculum. The health and safety of Connecticut children depend on it.

MaTaeya McFadden is an undergraduate student at the University of Pennsylvania. She is from Hartford.

OP-ED

Racial identitarians share a common foe with national conservatives: individualism

By George F. Will
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Prophesy is optional folly but an irresistible end-of-year temptation. So, at the risk of allowing a wish to be the father of a thought, a plausible prediction is that in 2022 the current fever of racial thinking will break, for two reasons.

One is that such thinking has become something fatal in politics: boring. It is now a recycling of predictable boilerplate about "systemic" and "structural" this, and "unconscious" and "intersectional" that. The impulse, presented as a moral imperative, to view the nation's past and present exclusively through the narrow lens of race became in 2021 so pervasive and fierce that it resembled something perishable: a fad. Albeit one that has spawned a multibillion-dollar industry whereby corporations hire "diversity" consultants to teach them how to regret their "privilege" without shedding any.

A more intriguing reason climate change is coming to the nation's intellectual climate was given in an essay published exactly 60 years ago by an eminent British political philosopher. Michael Oakeshott's "The Masses in Representative Democracy" is uncannily pertinent to the United States' distemper in 2021 because it explains how today's supposedly avant-garde ideas are pre-modern.

Modernity's greatest achievement, which was the prerequisite for its subsequent achievements, was the invention of the individual. Oakeshott argued that, in the 14th and 15th centuries, conditions emerged that were "favorable to a very high degree of human individuality," meaning "persons accustomed to making choices for themselves."

Hitherto, this process was "narrowly circumscribed." Persons knew themselves only as members of a family, a group, a church, a village or as the occupant of a tenancy: "What differentiated one man from another was insignificant when compared with what was enjoyed in common as members of a group of some sort."

This began to change in Italy with "the breakup of medieval communal life." As the historian Jacob Burckhardt would write, "Italy began to swarm with individuality; the ban laid upon human personality was dissolved." Individuals detached themselves from derivative group identities, becoming eligible for individual rights grounded in the foundational right to an existence independent of any group membership.

The invention of the individual, Oakeshott wrote, entailed the idea of the private — a zone of personal sovereignty independent of communal arrangements. Hence the American Revolution: Government exists to protect the individual's right to the pursuit of happiness as the individual defines it, not the pursuit of the good life as government defines it. Government must be powerful enough to protect (in Oakeshott's formulation) "the order without which the aspirations of individuality could not be realized" — security of person and property — but not powerful enough to threaten individuality.

Oakeshott understood in 1961 that modernity's emancipation of the individual from the "warmth of communal pressures" did not exhilarate everyone. Indeed, in 2021, U.S. "national conservatives," who are collectivists on the right, recoil against modernity in the name of communitarian values, strongly tinged with a nativist nationalism and with a trace of the European blood-and-soil right.

These "national conservatives" have an unacknowledged kinship with their collectivist cousins on the left, the race identitarians. Their critical race theory subsumes individualism, dissolving it in a group membership — racial solidarity, which supposedly has been forged in the furnace of racist oppression.

Today's progressives, who fancy themselves the vanguard of modernity, are actually modernity's enemies. In progressivism's jargon, History is a proper noun designating something autonomous. People "on the right side of history" propel History toward a knowable destination. It is known by theorists whose special insight makes them society's rightful rulers.

Their supposed insight is that all of life is a power struggle between History's helpers and History's hinderers. In the previous two centuries, progressives expected that the proletariat, purged of false consciousness and infused with revolutionary consciousness by instruction in true theories, would wage the class struggle. This would be History's propellant. Individual identity would mean nothing; class membership would mean everything.

But the incorrigibly non-revolutionary proletariat has disappointed History worshipers' expectations of a climactic class struggle. So, the oppressed-versus-oppressor dynamic of History has been Americanized through critical race theory. The working class has been replaced as History's fuel — replaced by non-whites seeking emancipation from "systemic" oppression by whites.

Oakeshott's insight about the nature of modernity illuminates the anti-modern aspects of today's racial progressivism, which is a tactical revision of economic-materialist progressivism. So, today's advanced thinking is not fundamentally unlike yesterday's — the 19th century's — advanced thinking. As a wit has said, everything changes except the avant-garde.

George F. Will writes on politics and domestic and foreign affairs for The Washington Post.

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Broad Brook
Kathleen M. Pelletier
New Britain
Gail Henri
Other Towns in CT
Kathleen M. Pelletier
Vernon
Ronald J. Stavens, Sr.
Windsor
Ronald J. Stavens, Sr.
OUT OF STATE
Ronald J. Stavens, Sr.
Conway, SC

*** Denotes name listing only.**
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Henri, Gail

Gail Henri, 79, of New Britain, passed away on December 18, 2021 with her beloved family by her side. The widow of the late Joseph Felix Henri who passed exactly a month before his beloved wife of 59 years. She is survived by her two daughters: Cynthia Israel-Henri, of New Britain and Michelle Henri, of Torrington; her sister Linda Pauloz and her husband Bob, of Kensington; as well as 6 beloved grandchildren, and 12 great-grandkids. Gail loved and drove street rods and classic cars with her sister Linda and Bob. She was a member of the Connecticut Street Rod Association and she never missed a car show or cruise night. Gail drove a yellow 1928 Model A Sedan to every show both near and far. She travelled with her mother, sister, and brother-in-law to all the car shows. She also loved to ride motorcycles with her husband. Gail will be deeply missed by anyone who had ever met her. The kindest and most genuine woman we have ever known, Gail was lovingly referred to as the best mom ever as well as Mrs. Klaus because she made Christmas happen for all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. A time of visitation will be held on Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at New Britain Memorial & Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Avenue, New Britain from 2:00-4:00pm with a funeral home service of remembrance at 4:00pm. For an online memorial, please visit www.NewBritainSagarino.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Pelletier, Kathleen M.

Kathleen Mary "Fred" Pelletier of Broad Brook, CT passed away on Monday, December 20, 2021 after a short illness. Our "Little April Fool" was born on April 1, 1959 to Mary Pelletier (nee Doyle) and the late Alger Pelletier of East Granby, CT.

Kathy is survived by her husband Robert Winot and her sons Captain Matthew Winot, USAF, and Jeffrey Winot, her mother Mary, her beloved sister Denise Chamberlain and her husband Scott of Granby, her brother David Pelletier and his wife Sue of Wilson, VA, brother Tom Pelletier of Granby, her longtime friend Brenda Sheehan, and all of her wonderful coworkers of Electro Methods Inc of South Windsor, CT. She was predeceased by her brother Steven Pelletier of Granby.

My girl Fred's greatest loves besides her family were baking and the beach. Her delicious Christmas deserts filled the hearts and stomachs of many, and there wasn't a bread or cookie she couldn't bake. Whether it was Rocky Neck or Hammanasset Beaches in CT, or Nauset Light or First Encounter Beaches on Cape Cod, she was the happiest walking with her head down, sand between her toes, searching for her latest treasure. There wasn't a jingle Kathy didn't love.

A visitation will be held on Sunday, January 2, 2022 from 3:00-6:00 p.m. A Memorial Service will be held the following day on January 3, 2022 at 11:00 a.m. All services will take place at the Bassinger & Dowd Funeral Home, 37 Gardner Street, East Windsor, CT. A celebration of life will immediately follow with details to be provided at the service. Burial will be private. Masks are optional but requested. Donations can be made in Kathy's honor to Feral Cats of East Windsor Inc, P.O. Box 198, East Windsor, CT 06088, or to the charity of your choice. For online condolences please visit www.pietrasfuneralhome.com.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Stavens Sr., Ronald J

Ronald J. Stavens Sr. June 25, 1940 to December 16, 2021.
Ron lived in Connecticut most of his life, recently moving to Conway, SC with his wife Barbara.
Ronald worked in the moving and storage industry for forty six years, thirty four of those years with Hartford Despatch agent for Allied Van Lines as V.P. of Sales and Operations Manager and appointed as Adviser to Allied's Board of Operations.
As a visionary, Ron owned several small businesses throughout his life: Stavens Transportation, Allied Air Freight of Hartford, CT, part owner of Wm. B. Kent agent North American Van Lines, Ms. Packman, Connecticut Recycling Works, and Connecticut Recycling Property Services with his wife Barbara.
Ron leaves behind his beautiful and loving wife, Barbara Simlick Brenckman Stavens of 21 years. Three faithful, loving sons, Ronald Stavens Jr. of Tolland, CT and his wife Dawn, Glenn Stavens of Columbia, CT and his wife Kim, and Todd Stavens of Coventry, CT and his wife Sandy. Stepchildren Robert Brenckman of Dexter, ME, Jennifer Brenckman of Ellington, CT, and Lisa Jean of Nashua, NH. Ron also leaves behind several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Siblings Marilyn Conklin of Middletown, NY, Twin brother Donald Stavens and wife Rosalie of Scottsdale, AZ, Michael Stavens and his wife Kathy of Vernon, CT. A special thank you to his sister Marjorie Otto and husband Thomas of Conway, SC, for all their help making the move to Conway a little easier.
Ronald throughout his life enjoyed years of camping, snowmobiling, dirt bike riding, traveling visiting many Caribbean islands, Panama canal, Hawaii several times and extensively throughout the United States, along with several countries in Europe. Traveling when he was physically young enough to enjoy the adventure.
Memorial service will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 180 Park Avenue in Windsor, CT on Monday January 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
ALAN ROBERT LANCIONI
10/15/1951 - 12/27/1990
Till memory fades and life departs,
you live forever in our hearts.
Love Wayne, Gary, and Jackie

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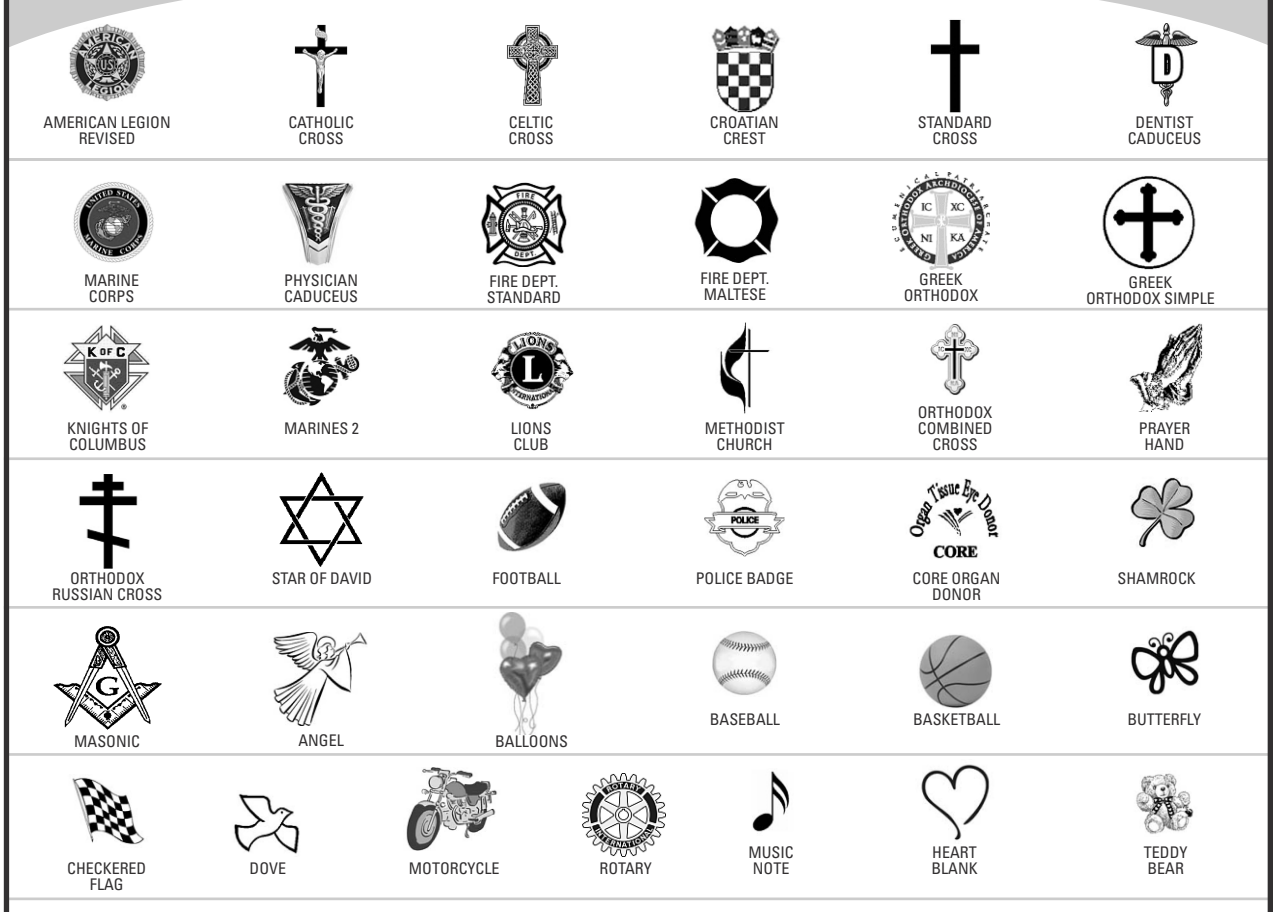
Share memories, express condolences, and celebrate life in the obituary section on courant.com.

Ask us for our listing of emblems and how we can help you personalize your loved one's obituary.



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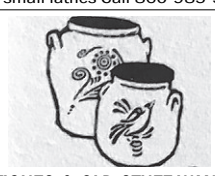

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Connecticut

PROPERTY AUCTION

The tax collector of the Town of Vernon has levied upon the following properties in Vernon and slated them for public auction to satisfy delinquent taxes and charges under C.G.S. § 12-157. Volume and page numbers refer to the Town's land records; maps refer to the Town's assessment maps. Unless paid, these properties will be auctioned in "as is" condition at 10:00 a.m. on March 9, 2022 at the Vernon Town Hall at 14 Park Place.

Mobile home at 2 South Terrace (Volume 633 Page 179) owned by Joe D. Atkinson, owing $2,063.64. ECHN d/b/a Manchester Memorial & Rockville General Hospital, Inc.; Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Northeast Utilities; High Manor Mobile Home Park; High Manor, LLC; and Dizenzo Residential Communities, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

86 Orchard Street (Volume 2420 Page 43) owned by Amanda Bailey, owing $32,760.65.

977 Hartford Turnpike (Map 72 Lot 00030) owned by Estate of Joseph Bielecki a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki a/k/a Joseph Bielecki, Jr. a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki, Jr., owing $21,464.48. The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Joseph Bielecki a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki a/k/a Joseph Bielecki, Jr. a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki, Jr. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

985 Hartford Turnpike (Map 72 Lot 00030-0001) owned by Estate of Joseph Bielecki a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki a/k/a Joseph Bielecki, Jr. a/k/a Joseph G. Bielecki, Jr., owing $30,171.10. The Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Joseph Bielecki may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

23 Brooklyn Street (Volume 1608 Page 33) owned by Richard Demaine, owing $13,991.89. U.S. Bank, National Association, as Trustee for Structured Asset Investment Loan Trust Mortgage Pass-Through Certificates, Series 2005-7 may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

371 Tunnel Road (Volume 2402 Page 47) owned by Barry Folland, owing $43,054.39.

119 Center Road (Volume 2177 Page 231) owned by Niko Jurich, owing $4,397.43. Preferred Investment Associates, Inc.; KeyBank, N.A. as successor to First Niagara Bank; Homestead Fuel, Inc.; Synovus Bank as successor to World's Foremost Bank; Cavalry SPV I, LLC; and Discover Bank may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

33 Snipsic Street (Map 41 Block 115 Lot 00005) owned by Mark Kalina, owing $38,989.42. People's United Bank, N.A. as successor to Rockville Bank and Warren J. Gottier Fuel Company, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

9 Oakview Place (Volume 1317 Page 306) owned by Joan M. Kowalski and Evelyn M. Rivard or her Estate, owing $45,577.87. Quail Hollow Condominium Association, Inc.; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Evelyn M. Rivard may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

10 Orchard Street (Volume 1635 Page 226) owned by Johnny J. McShane and Robin L. Roy a/k/a Robin L. McShane a/k/a Robin Roy McShane, owing $4,998.33. JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as successor to Chase Manhattan Mortgage Corp; U.S. Bank National Association, Trustee of NRZ Recovery Trust; Johnson Memorial Hospital; Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center; Legacy ECMPF as successor to Eastern Connecticut Medical Professionals Foundation, Inc.; ECHN d/b/a Manchester Memorial & Rockville General Hospital, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

37 Franklin Street (Volume 2153 Page 33) owned by Mary C. Papazoglow, owing $37,899.30. Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., as Trustee for Option One Mortgage Loan Trust 2000-C Asset-Backed Certificates Series 2000-C by Assignment of Mortgage dated March 2, 2006; and Homeward Residential, Inc. as successor to American Home Mortgage Servicing, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

333 Lake Street (Volume 357 Page 281) owned by Estate of Elizabeth Peterson a/k/a Elizabeth H. Peterson, owing $22,189.37. Sandra M. Peterson; the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services; the United States Internal Revenue Service; and the surviving spouse and heirs of Elizabeth Peterson may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

7 Harlow Street (Volume 507 Page 198) owned by David H. Rivers, owing $19,565.29. People's United Bank, N.A. as successor to Savings Bank of Rockville and MEB Loan Trust II may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

108 West Main Street (Volume 640 Page 100) owned by Stephen J. Sanders, owing $2,231.76. Webster Bank, N.A. as successor to The Peoples Savings Bank of New Britain and Achieve Financial Credit Union may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

61 Pinewood Drive (Volume 2462 Page 237) owned by Lance Shackway, owing $57,173.97. Comfed Savings Bank, F.A. as successor to Heritage Savings & Loan Association, Inc. and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

341 Center Road (Volume 155 Page 680) owned by Gloria J. Sharpe, owing $33,909.95. ECHN d/b/a Manchester Memorial & Rockville General Hospital, Inc.; KeyBank, N.A. itself and as successor to NewAlliance Bank; Bristol Hospital; and Law Office of Dale C. Roberson, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

337 Center Road (Volume 1977 Page 236) owned by Frederick J. Sharpe and Gloria J. Sharpe, owing $11,485.67. ECHN d/b/a Manchester Memorial & Rockville General Hospital, Inc.; KeyBank, N.A. itself and as successor to NewAlliance Bank; Bristol Hospital; and Law Office of Dale C. Roberson, LLC may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

2 Amy Drive (Volume 1219 Page 51) owned by John D. Springmann, Jr. and Billie Jo Fusco, owing $53,121.90. Superior Energy LLC; Reservoir Heights Homeowners Association, Inc.; People's United Bank, N.A. as successor to People's Bank and to United Bank; Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems, Inc.; JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A. as successor to Washington Mutual Bank; and ECHN d/b/a Manchester Memorial & Rockville General Hospital, Inc. may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

13 Oak Street (Volume 2396 Page 139) owned by Abarael Yarael, owing $52,759.76. The Connecticut Water Company and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services may have interests which will be extinguished by the sale.

The dollar amounts listed are through the end of last month. Additional taxes, interest, fees, and other charges authorized by law accruing after the last day of the month immediately preceding this notice are owed in addition to the amount indicated as due and owing in this notice.

Bidders must present $5,000 per property in certified funds payable to "Pullman & Comley, Trustee" on the day of the sale, and the winning bidder must pay the balance of the sale price within 5 days or forfeit that deposit. Absent a redemption, the purchaser will take title "free and clear" six months after the auction except for certain encumbrances. Details at www.cttaxsales.com.
12/27/21 7111138

WETHERSFIELD HOUSING AUTHORITY
WAITING LIST OPENING ANNOUNCEMENT – DECEMBER 27, 2021

The Wethersfield Housing Authority through Imagineers will accept 500 pre-applications to be considered for its Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program waiting list through a computer-generated lottery. The HCV program offers rent subsidies to households who meet the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) eligibility guidelines.

The pre-application form will be available online beginning Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 9:00am until Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 11:59pm ET. You may access the online pre-application form at the following website:

https://www.waitlistcheck.com/CT2561

You may access the online pre-application form using any personal computer, laptop, smart phone, or tablet. There are many public libraries that offer free computer access if you don't have personal access to a computer. Wethersfield Library is located at 515 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109, 860-529-2665 and offers computer access Monday/Tuesday/Thursday from 10am-9pm; Wednesday/Friday/Saturday from 10am-5pm; and Sunday from 1pm-5pm with the use of a library card.

It is the policy of the Wethersfield Housing Authority to provide reasonable accommodations for those qualified individuals. To request a reasonable accommodation, please call 860-522-1028 between the hours of 8:00am and 5:00pm. Hearing impaired persons may use the TDD Line at 711.

You will need the following information to fill out the online form: names, social security numbers, birthdates and income information for everyone in the household.

No pre-applications will be accepted before January 11, 2022 or by hand delivery, fax or email. The online pre-application form will detail the specific important information. Applicants do not need to rush to apply as this wait list is not on a first-come, first-served basis. All pre-applicants will have an equal opportunity of being selected in a random lottery. On January 14, 2022 at 12:00am the waiting list will be closed.

Preference will be given to applicants that can submit verification documentation (after being selected through the lottery process) that they are: a) Involuntary Displaced (disaster, government action, action of housing owner, inaccessibility, property disposition, victims of domestic violence); or
b) Live in Substandard Housing; or c) Are or have Elderly/Disabled/Handicapped Family Members (disabled/handicapped as defined in Section 223 of the Social Security Act).

You will be able to submit a pre-application form if you are elderly, disabled, single, displaced or a family regardless of race, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, age, familial status, disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran status, are 18 years of age or older or an emancipated minor, are a citizen, or a non-citizen with eligible immigration status, can pass a criminal history screening and your income does not exceed the 4/2021 income limits listed below based on family size:
INCOME LIMITS: TOTAL HOUSEHOLD INCOME CANNOT EXCEED THE INCOME LIMIT FOR EACH HOUSEHOLD SIZE:

HOUSEHOLD SIZE	ONE	TWO	THREE	FOUR	FIVE	SIX	SEVEN	EIGHT
INCOME LIMIT	$36,550	$41,750	$46,950	$52,150	$56,350	$60,500	$64,700	$68,850

When there is an opening on the program, pre-applicants not living in the town of Wethersfield at the time of application will be required to initially lease a unit in Wethersfield for the first twelve (12) months of assistance.

Only one fully completed pre-application will be considered per household. You cannot submit more than one pre-application for the same household or it will be disqualified. Please be sure that another individual is not submitting a pre-application on your behalf.

We are an equal housing provider and we do not discriminate based on race, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, marital status, age, familial status, disability, lawful source of income, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or veteran status.

AUTORIDAD DE VIVIENDA DE WETHERSFIELD
ANUNCIO DE APERTURA DE LA LISTA DE ESPERA – 27 de diciembre de 2021

La Autoridad de Vivienda de Wethersfield, a través de Imagineers aceptará 500 pre-aplicaciones para ser consideradas para la lista de espera del Programa de Vales para Elección de Vivienda por medio de un sorteo de lotería. El programa de Vales ofrece subsidios de alquiler a familias que son elegibles bajo las regulaciones del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD).

La pre-aplicación estará disponible en línea comenzando el martes, 11 de enero de 2022 a las 9am hasta el jueves, 13 de enero de 2022, 11:59pm. Puede acceder la pre-aplicación en línea en la siguiente página web:
https://www.waitlistcheck.com/CT2561

Se puede acceder el formulario de pre-aplicación en línea usando cualquier computadora personal, ordenador portátil, celular "Smartphone" o tableta. Hay muchas bibliotecas que ofrecen acceso gratuito si no tienes acceso personal a una computadora. La biblioteca de Wethersfield ubicada en 515 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield, CT 06109, 860-529-2665 ofrece acceso a computadoras el lunes/martes/jueves d 10am-9pm; miércoles/viernes/sábado de 10am-5pm; y domingo de 1pm-5pm con tarjeta de biblioteca.

Es la póliza de la Autoridad de Vivienda de Wethersfield de proveer una adaptación razonable para individuos calificados. Para solicitar una acomodación razonable, favor de llamar al 860-522-1028 entre 8:00am y 5:00pm. Las personas con discapacidad auditiva pueden usar la línea TDD al 711.

Se necesitará la siguiente información para llenar el formulario en línea: los nombres, números de seguro social, fechas de nacimiento e ingreso para todos en el hogar.

No se aceptará ningunas pre-aplicaciones antes del 11 de enero de 2022 o por entrega de mano, fax o correo electrónico. El formulario de pre-aplicación en línea detallará el específico información importante. Solicitantes no necesitan apresurarse en aplicar como esta lista de espera no es en orden de llegada. Todos los solicitantes tendrán la misma oportunidad de ser seleccionados en el sorteo de lotería. La lista de espera se cerrará el 14 de enero de 2022 a las 12:00 am.

Se dará preferencia a los solicitantes que puedan presentar documentación de verificación (después de haber sido seleccionados a través del proceso de lotería) de que son: a) Desplazados involuntarios (desastre, acción del gobierno, acción del propietario de la vivienda, inaccesibilidad, disposición de la propiedad, víctimas de violencia doméstica); o b) Vivir en viviendas de calidad inferior; o c) Son o tienen miembros de la familia ancianos/discapacitados (discapacitados como se define en la Sección 223 de la Ley de Seguridad Social).
Usted podrá someteré un formulario de pre-aplicación si: es anciano, incapacitado, solo, desplazado o una familia independientemente de su raza, origen nacional, ascendencia, religión, sexo, estado civil, edad, estado familiar, discapacidad, fuente legal de ingresos, orientación sexual, identidad o expresión de género o estado de veterano, es mayor de 18 años de edad o más o menor emancipado, es ciudadano, o un extranjero con estatus de inmigración elegible, puede pasar un examen de historia criminal y sus ingresos no exceden los límites de ingresos de 4/2021 listados abajo basado en el tamaño de la familia.

Los ingresos totales de su familia no pueden exceder la cantidad para cada tamaño (personas) de su hogar:

UNO	DOS	TRES	CUATRO	CINCO	SEIS	SIETE	OCHO
$36,550	$41,750	$46,950	$52,150	$56,350	$60,500	$64,700	$68,850

Cuando hay una apertura en el programa, los pre-aplicantes que no viven en la ciudad de Wethersfield en el momento de la solicitud deberán arrendar inicialmente una unidad en Wethersfield durante los primeros doce (12) meses de asistencia.

Se considerará solamente una pre-aplicación completada por hogar. No puede someter más de una pre-aplicación para el mismo hogar o será descalificado. Asegúrese de que otra persona no envíe una pre-aplicación en su nombre.

Somos un proveedor de vivienda igualitario y no discriminamos por motivos de raza, origen nacional, ascendencia, religión, sexo, estado civil, edad, estado familiar, discapacidad, fuente legal de ingresos, orientación sexual, identidad o expresión de género o estado de veterano.
7115150 12/27/2021

Hartford

TAX NOTICE
TOWN OF MANSFIELD

NOTICE is hereby given to ALL PERSONS liable to pay taxes in the Town of Mansfield, CT, that the second payment of their taxes on the list of Oct. 1, 2020 is due Jan. 1, 2022, and that the Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax for vehicles registered between Oct. 2, 2020 and July 31, 2021 is also due on Jan. 1, 2022. Tax Bills are now on-line at www.mansfieldct.gov under make a payment. Phone inquiries can be made at 860-429-3307. The Tax Office is located in the Audrey P. Beck Building. The office will be closed on Fri. Dec 31st, 2021 and Mon. Jan 17, 2022. The grace period to pay the taxes is through Feb. 1, 2022. As soon as such tax becomes delinquent, it shall be subject to interest at the rate of 1.50% of such tax for each month or fraction thereof which elapses from the time when such tax becomes due and payable until the same is paid, with a minimum interest charge of $2.00 (See Chapter 204, Sections 12-145, 12-146). The Statutes of the State of Connecticut that apply to the levy and collection of taxes will be enforced against any person neglecting this notice. Failure to receive a tax bill does not release the responsibility of having to pay interest on the tax in accordance with State Statutes outlined in this notice.

Jerl J Casey, COLLECTOR OF REVENUE, Town of Mansfield, CT
12/27/21 1/5/22 & 1/27/22 7107678

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Connecticut

Connecticut

TOWN OF WETHERSFIELD
TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

In accordance with section 12-145 of the Connecticut General Statutes, the Tax Collector of the Town of Wethersfield hereby gives notice that the second installment of taxes on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 is due and payable on January 1, 2022. Taxes must be paid on or before February 1, 2022 to avoid interest charges. All taxes paid after February 1, 2022 will be subject to an interest charge of 1.50% per month from due date or 3% if paid in the month of February. The minimum interest charge is $2.00.

The Supplemental Motor Vehicle tax for vehicles registered between October 2, 2020 and July 31, 2021 are also due and payable January 1, 2022 per section 12-71b of the General Statutes, State of Connecticut.

FAILURE TO RECEIVE A TAX BILL SHALL NOT INVALIDATE THE TAX OR INTEREST CHARGES.

Payment of taxes shall be made at the office of the Tax Collector, Wethersfield Town Hall, 505 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield CT., from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, or by mail to the address shown above, you may also pay online at www.wethersfieldct.com.

Please note that the Town Hall will be closed on January 3rd and January 17th.

Anyone, who has acquired real estate after October 1, 2021 and does not have a tax bill in his or her possession, should contact the tax office without delay.

Marlene Desjardins, CCMC
Tax Collector

Dated: December 9, 2021
12/27/21, 1/8, 28/22 7107235

LEGAL NOTICE - HARTFORD

Notice is hereby given that there will be a caucus of all enrolled Republican electors of the City of Hartford on January 5, 2022 at 6:15 PM at 20 Church Street, 17th floor, Hartford, CT to endorse candidates for the Hartford Republican Town Committee.
12/27/21 7113645

INVITATION TO BID
SOUTH WINDSOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MOWING SERVICES K-12

Specifications for Bid, SWP&R Mowing Services may be obtained on the South Windsor Parks & Recreation website under Legal Notices or Public Works website under," Bids".
(www.southwindsor-ct.gov) (https://southwindsor.recdesk.com)

Sealed bids will be received at the Office of the Town Manager at the Town Hall, 1540 Sullivan Avenue, South Windsor, CT 06074 until 11:00 a.m. on January 27, 2022. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud after.

The South Windsor Parks & Recreation reserves the right to waive any informalities in bids; to reject any or all bids; or to accept the one that in their judgement will be for the best interest of the Town of South Windsor or the South Windsor Board of Education. For further information, contact the South Windsor Parks Superintendent at 860-648-6366 or John.Caldwell@southwindsor-ct.gov.

Michael Maniscalco, MPA
Town Manager
12/27/21 7114556

LAND & WATER RESOURCES DIVISION
Notice of Proposed Program Change Review
State of Connecticut
Connecticut Coastal Management Program: Submission of Program Change Request to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

The Connecticut Coastal Management Program (CCMP), housed in the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection's (DEEP) Land and Water Resources Division (LWRD), was approved by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in September 1980, pursuant to Section 306 of the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 (PL. 92-583). The CCMP, as approved, includes enforceable policies involving the management and protection of the Long Island Sound that are contained in several State statutes and administrative policies. Federal Regulations (15 CFR Part 923, Subpart H) require that changes to the enforceable policies of an approved State Coastal Management Program be submitted to NOAA's Office for Coastal Management for review and approval. DEEP has submitted the 2021 Long Island Sound Blue Plan for incorporation into the State's federally approved coastal zone management program, including Appendix 1 which compiles all enforceable policies intended to be applied for federal consistency purposes under the Coastal Zone Management Act. Additional information on the proposed action to CT's CCMP is available at the Public Notices link at www.ct.gov/deep and on the CT Blue Plan main webpage: A summary of the proposal and supplemental information are available for inspection upon request at the Land & Water Resources Division, DEEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or by email to Karen Michaels at Karen.Michaels@ct.gov.

DEEP's CCMP change request is available for viewing on NOAA's Program Change web portal at: https://coast.noaa.gov/czmprogramchange/#/public/home. Comments on the incorporation of the proposed change into the CCMP should be submitted directly to the NOAA Office for Coastal Management through the NOAA Program Change web portal. Comments may also be submitted by hardcopy to: Joelle Gore at N/OCM6, 1305 East-West Highway, Silver Spring, MD 21910. NOAA will accept comments for 21 days following the date of publication of this notice. Information regarding proposed action is available for inspection at the Land & Water Resources Division, DEEP, 79 Elm Street, Hartford, between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or by email to Karen Michaels at Karen.Michaels@ct.gov.

DEEP is an Affirmative Action and Equal Opportunity Employer that is committed to complying with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Please contact Karen.Michaels@ct.gov if you are seeking a communication aid or service, have limited proficiency in English, or require some other accommodation. If you wish to file an ADA or Title VI discrimination complaint, you may submit your complaint to the DEEP Office of Diversity and Equity at (860) 418-5910 or via email at deep.accommodations@ct.gov. In order to facilitate efforts to provide an accommodation, please request all accommodations as soon as possible following notice of any agency hearing, meeting, program or event.

Publish date: December 27, 2021
Approved by: Brian P. Thompson, Director
12/27/2021 7115022

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

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Real estate transactions and local properties on the market.
Every Friday.

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Dogs

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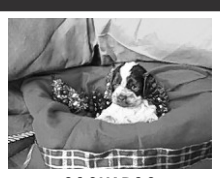

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Hartford Courant
LIVING
COURANT.COM / FEATURES

Ha Si Ba Gen, a cashmere goat herder, counts heads Sept. 9 on his ranch in Alashan, in the Inner Mongolia region of China. The brand Loro Piana has embarked on a program that will allow customers to trace production of one of its baby cashmere sweaters from goat to store. **GILLES SABRIE/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

Do you know where your sweater came from?

One brand wants you to see process from goat to store

By Vanessa Friedman
The New York Times

Just under a decade ago, I wrote a column about an extraordinary new initiative, courtesy of Fendi, called Pesce d'Aprile, in which a customer could travel to a crocodile farm in Singapore, select the reptile from which their handbag would be made and then follow its progress via an app. Billed as the fashion equivalent of "know your food," it was the first of its kind.

It was also entirely made up (by me): an April Fools' joke invented to highlight the lengths to which fashion brands would go to distinguish themselves — and the fact that, increasingly, customers were interested in the origin of their products.

Except now, finally, the joke's on me.

Loro Piana, the luxury brand known for its plush, understated knits that look as if they have been woven from liquidized bank notes, has embarked on a program that will allow customers to trace every step of production of one of its baby cashmere sweaters from goat to store.

It may seem like a simple thing: How can a brand not know exactly where and how its products are made? Yet the fashion supply chain is so complicated, its many moving parts spread out over so many countries and processes, that for most of us the origin stories of our clothes are almost entirely opaque.

"We have a belief that companies know where things are coming from, and in actual fact many companies lost that ability quite a long time ago,"

Turn to Sweater, *Page 4*

Purplish-blue tone, Veri Peri, is Pantone's color for 2022

By Elizabeth Wellington
The Philadelphia Inquirer

In an effort to blend the futuristic with the warm and fuzzy, Pantone announced Veri Peri as its 2022 color of the year last week.

Pantone describes the purplish hue as a dynamic periwinkle blue with violet-red undertones. Veri Peri blends the faithfulness and constancy of blue with the energy and excitement of red, said Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute. "This happiest and warmest of all blue hues introduces an empowering mix of newness," Pressman said.

This is the 23rd time Pantone has announced a color of the year, when Pantone's color experts reach into their vast swatch library to select a color that will illustrate how the world is evolving. But for 2022, Pantone color geniuses mixed up a new hue. The Carlstadt, New Jersey-based color experts are confident Veri Peri will color our clothes, our hair, cars, coffeemakers as well as the wallpaper in our homes and on our sleeping computers.

"The challenges we are facing have not only led us to reframe our cultural values, but we are

Turn to Pantone, *Page 4*

Veri Peri blends a dynamic periwinkle blue with violet-red undertones. **PANTONE COLOR INSTITUTE**

NOW PLAYING

Reviews of movies showing in theaters or streaming online

Carrie-Anne Moss, left, and Keanu Reeves in "The Matrix Resurrections." **WARNER BROS./HBO**

'ENCANTO': The latest Disney Animation film, "Encanto," sweeps audiences away to a colorful, enchanted world of Colombian magical realism, introducing the Madrigal family, who have each been granted extraordinary gifts, except one, our heroine, Mirabel (Stefanie Beatriz), who has yet to discover her own personal magic. The Madrigal family magic was borne out of extreme trauma and pain, when matriarch Abuela Alma (Maria Cecilia Botero) lost her husband while fleeing violence in their village. In desperation, she cried out for protection for herself and her infant triplets, and a magical candle raised mountains around a charmed casita, where she's raised her family since. Each Madrigal receives their gift in a coming-of-age ceremony, whether it's super strength, high-powered hearing, talking to animals, spinning flowers out of thin air, shape-shifting, future divining, weather controlling or food healing. The only exception to the magical rule so far is the sweet, smart Mirabel, who never received her gift, and has since felt like the family outcast, bending over backward to earn her place among them. As she starts to see cracks in the foundation of their beloved casita, Mirabel probes deeper in to the family's magic, and ultimately realizes that all of her family members are caught in the trap of perfectionism. 1:39. 3 stars. *— Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

'THE KING'S MAN': How English is "The King's Man"? So English that the biggest musical flourish in the score is reserved for a scene in which someone decides whether to have a cup of tea. It's a prequel to the "Kingsman" movies that starred Taron Egerton and Samuel L. Jackson, but it's best to forget about them since this one takes place more than half a century earlier. It purports to chart the development of the secret spy agency depicted in the gleefully bloody London-set "Kingsman" films, connecting early-20th-century events such as the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Russian reign of terror of Rasputin and trench warfare in World War I. 2:11. 2 stars. *— Chris Hewitt, Star Tribune*

'LICORICE PIZZA': Gary Valentine is almost famous. This enterprising hustler parlays his demi-fame into a kind of accidental-on-purpose mystique, that of a 15-year-old LA whiz kid, with one foot in the Industry as a child actor and the other in whatever he's cooking up at the moment. "Licorice Pizza," writer-director Paul Thomas Anderson's gloriously hazy hangout of a movie, starts from the premise of this San Fernando Valley high schooler putting his idea of "the moves" on 25-year-old Alana. She works as a photographer's assistant. He first spies her when he's in line for picture day. Their queasy age difference makes Gary's ardor, in Alana's eyes, a foolish delusion. Yet Alana — as played, indelibly, by Alana Haim of the Grammy-nominated sisters band Haim — finds herself weirdly charmed by this boy/man. 2:13. 3 ½ stars. *— Michael Phillips*

'THE MATRIX RESURRECTIONS': When the Wachowski siblings, Lana and Lilly, changed the film landscape (and popular culture) forever with 1999's "The Matrix," a philosophical sci-fi film starring Keanu Reeves that questioned the very nature of existence itself, it was no surprise that the studio behind the movie, Warner Bros., asked them to make a few more. They obliged in 2003, with "The Matrix Reloaded" and "The Matrix Revolutions," though the sequels effectively killed off the idea that we'd ever hang with Neo and Trinity again. But the powers that be will always want more, and so a sequel to the trilogy, "The Matrix Resurrections," arrives 18 years later. But this isn't just another rehash. Rather, the film asks us to question the utility of sequels, reboots and the constant churn of intellectual property, especially when the original lesson of "The Matrix" was to awaken oneself to the system and then bring the whole thing crashing down. 2:28. 3 stars. In theaters and streaming on HBO Max. *— Katie Walsh*

'SING 2': The turning point in "Sing 2" happens about 45 minutes in, when a porcupine croons a wistful version of U2's "Stuck in a Moment You Can't Get Out Of." Up until that scene, "Sing 2" has been all too much like its predecessor, a weirdly disjointed animated comedy that was sort of like if karaoke were performed by stuffed animals. A bunch of cuddly creatures, including that porcupine (voiced by Scarlett Johansson) and a koala (Matthew McConaughey), are involved in a musical competition where blandly competent singers perform versions of songs that make you wish you could hear the original performers instead. Writer/director Garth Jennings keeps making the musical numbers bigger and bigger, including a version of space travel, and we get to hear Johansson's moody take on another U2 song, "With or Without You." 1:52. 2 ½ stars. *— Katie Walsh*

'SPIDER-MAN: NO WAY HOME': Casting Tom Holland as Peter Parker was one of the sharper decisions to emerge from the ever-present, oxygen-sucking Marvel Cinematic Universe. These movies are designed to never, ever end. Always another intramural sequel or spinoff option. It can get a little wearying, and I say that with the knowledge that, for millions, there is no weariness, only rapture and delight. I'm happy for those people. We all need something. Holland provides the glue and the webbing for the latest Spidey outing, "Spider-Man: No Way Home." Director Jon Watts and screenwriters Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers deliver an extremely busy, generally entertaining venture into the MCU multiverse of alternate timelines, competing versions of the same character and swirling trippiness. If you caught the animated and extremely deft 2018 "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse," you'll get the idea. This film has little of that film's visual invention but a good deal of its verbal wit. 2:28. 3 stars. *— Michael Phillips*

'THE TRAGEDY OF MACBETH': The early 17th century potboiler "The Tragedy of Macbeth" is the shortest of Shakespeare's tragedies. Director and adapter Joel Coen, working here without brother Ethan, took on this film version with his wife, Frances McDormand, committed — fully, as if that needed saying — to Lady Macbeth, opposite Denzel Washington as the ruthless warrior who lusts for the crown and goes blood simple in the process. Stripping "Macbeth" for parts, keeping the focus on the main narrative lines of political assassination and what Macbeth himself refers to as "supernatural soliciting," Coen turns out to be ideally suited to a straight-ahead, let's-get-on-with-it rendition. Shot on an LA soundstage, in tight, boxy 4:3 and black and white, this 105-minute trot through a charismatic power couple's rise and fall is ripping stuff — largely because it dwells in a shadow realm where theatrical methods meet cinematic expression. In the best way, we never quite know where we are here. 1:45. 3 ½ stars. *— Michael Phillips*

'WEST SIDE STORY': Purists can relax, and put their smelling salts away. The vibrant new "West Side Story" hasn't been updated, or relocated. It's still a resident of Upper West Side Manhattan in the late 1950s, in the vicinity of what used to be called Lincoln Square and San Juan Hill. But director Steven Spielberg and screenwriter Tony Kushner have made sharp, often arresting sense of original librettist Arthur Laurents' material, born on Broadway in 1957. Jerome Robbins' dances helped make the Broadway musical a prestige success; the score by Leonard Bernstein and a newcomer named Stephen Sondheim didn't hurt, either. The 1961 movie, dutiful, square and pretty dull as cinema though full of performance felicities, took care of the smash-hit part of the show's reputation. Whatever this new adaptation's popular reception, it's five times the movie the '61 movie was. 2:36. 3 ½ stars. *— Michael Phillips*

RATINGS: The movies listed are rated according to the following key: 4 stars, excellent; 3 stars, good; 2 stars, fair; 1 star, poor.

CELEBRITIES

Harris hopes film's quandary debated

By Peter Sblendorio
New York Daily News

Naomie Harris, seen Sept.28, stars with Mahershala Ali in the film "Swan Song." **GARETH CATTERMOLE/GETTY**

Naomie Harris' new movie mixes futuristic science fiction with a tale as old as time: the undying love between a couple.

"Swan Song" is set in a society where terminally ill people can secretly clone themselves and let their healthy lookalikes seamlessly step into their lives.

"It does pose some very interesting questions about how far you will go to protect those that you love," Harris said. "I think it will definitely get people talking, and wondering what they would do themselves in that situation."

In theaters and on Apple TV+, "Swan Song" stars Harris and Mahershala Ali as a married couple with a young son and another child on the way.

Ali's Cameron hasn't told his family he's dying, and struggles to decide whether it is ethical to replace himself with a clone so his loved ones can blissfully carry on with their lives. The offer to clone himself is off the table, however, if he informs Harris' Poppy that he's sick.

"It's a very unique and special movie, and it has an incredible amount of heart and soul," Harris, 45, said.

"I also love the fact that it's dealing with a kind of mature love. Most of the time, we're talking about the first stages of love, where it's infatuation and people are just falling in love, whereas this is about a couple that have been together a hell of a long time, and really care about each other. (They) care so much that they're willing to sacrifice their own happiness for each other."

Harris said Ali selected her to star alongside him in "Swan Song."

"Mahershala and I work in a very similar way, which is we don't actually like rehearsals, and we don't actually like a lot of talking about the script and intellectualizing the script," Harris said.

"It was just very lucky that we both like to work in the same way, and that way is to find whatever magic there is, and whatever truth there is, in the moment."

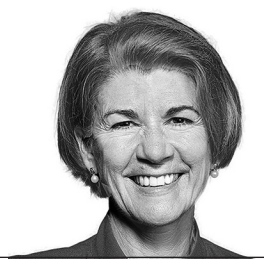
"Swan Song" is the latest high-profile movie in a busy year for Harris. She also returned as the sleek MI6 secretary Eve Moneypenny in the James Bond movie "No Time to Die," and starred as the villainous Shriek in the Marvel-inspired "Venom: Let There Be Carnage."

The London-born star enjoys playing a variety of characters. "They take you on a journey where you get to discover new parts of yourself, or reach out and reach these new parts of yourself that you never knew were within you," Harris said. "There's always a journey, every role that you take on. That's one of the gifts of acting, that you're constantly getting to stretch yourself and find yourself anew."

She hopes "Swan Song" touches the hearts of viewers, and intrigues audiences with the moral quandary at the center of the story.

"It certainly got me wondering throughout the whole movie," she said. "I'd flip between two positions, where I was suddenly like, 'Yeah, I would've done the same.' And then I'm like, 'Absolutely not.' "

Dec. 27 birthdays: Actor John Amos is 82. Drummer T.S. Monk is 72. Actor Tovah Feldshuh is 68. Actor Maryam D'Abo is 61. Actor Ian Gomez is 57. Actor Theresa Randle is 57. Actor Masi Oka is 47. Actor Emilie de Ravin is 40. Singer Hayley Williams is 33. Singer Shay Mooney is 30. Actor Timothee Chalamet is 26.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Those that have, should give to charities

Dear Readers: Last year when I wrote my annual "Charity Roundup" column, we were all hunkered down and experiencing a solitary holiday season, as we all coped with the prospect of a long pandemic winter.

We collectively longed for hugs and handshakes, for in-person visits with our elders, and for the creative boost of attending a live concert or theater performance.

We wanted to sing out loud again.

This year is something of a hybrid. As the global pandemic shape shifts around us, many people are still isolated, alone, fearful, hurting, hungry, heartsick and needing a hand. It is also important to remember that, even as the pandemic continues to flare, other human-born challenges, social ills and natural disasters still happen.

Those of us who are lucky to have enough should give away as much as we can. Your dollars might go further if you donate to smaller organizations within your own community.

Give to your local library, historical society, theater ensemble and the feeding ministry at a nearby house of worship. Shovel your neighbor's sidewalk. Send cards and letters to elders. Encourage the children in your life by modeling compassion and kindness.

Below are some recommendations across various categories, to inspire your own giving. All are highly rated by Charity Navigator (charitynavigator.org). Always carefully research any organization receiving your donation.

Providing emergency services to vulnerable people

■ Direct Relief (directrelief.org): This venerable institution continues to adapt its services to provide quick and competent medical care and specialized equipment for people affected by man-made or natural disasters.

■ Water Mission (watermission.org): This innovative organization was founded by environmental engineers George and Molly Greene, who engineered their faith into action by designing and distributing simple water supply systems, and then teaching local populations how to build and maintain their own.

■ Feeding America (feedingamerica.org): A national umbrella organization of food banks. According to their estimates, during the pandemic, 60 million "food insecure" Americans turned to food banks for help last year. Through their website, you can donate money to your local food bank.

■ Meals On Wheels (mealsonwheelsamerica.org): Nutrition comes in many forms. Volunteers for Meals on Wheels provide food, human contact and comfort to seniors. Type your ZIP code into the search bar for your local provider.

Supporting education

■ ProLiteracy (proliteracy.org): Literacy Volunteers of America was founded in 1960 by Ruth Colvin, who launched the charity from the basement of her Syracuse, N.Y., home. Now a global effort tackling the unique challenges of adult illiteracy, they host an annual "Great American Book Sale," offering autographed books by bestselling authors.

■ American Indian College Fund (collegefund.org): Provides financial support for Native American students and tribal colleges and universities.

■ Sandy Hook Promise (sandyhookpromise.org): Founded after the horrific murders of 20 young schoolchildren and six of their teachers, the organization's innovative "Say Hello" and "Know the Signs" programs educate children about social isolation and the warning signs of potential violence.

■ Donors Choose (donorschoose.org): A wonderful and fun way to fund specific classroom projects by responding to direct appeals by teachers.

Supporting servicemembers and their families

■ Homes for Our Troops (hfotusa.org): The work of building and adapting homes for disabled veterans continues with one of my favorite organizations.

■ Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (taps.org): Provides peer support, seminars, and online and in-person support for military families struggling through loss, including running "grief camps" for children. A donation can provide a backpack to a TAPS kid attending camp or sponsor a customized care package for a newly bereaved widow.

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Need cash fast? Try this!

Discover the Hidden Secret to Getting Fast Cash for your Old Golf Balls!

Dear Friend,

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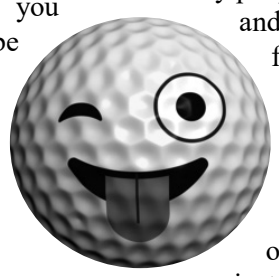

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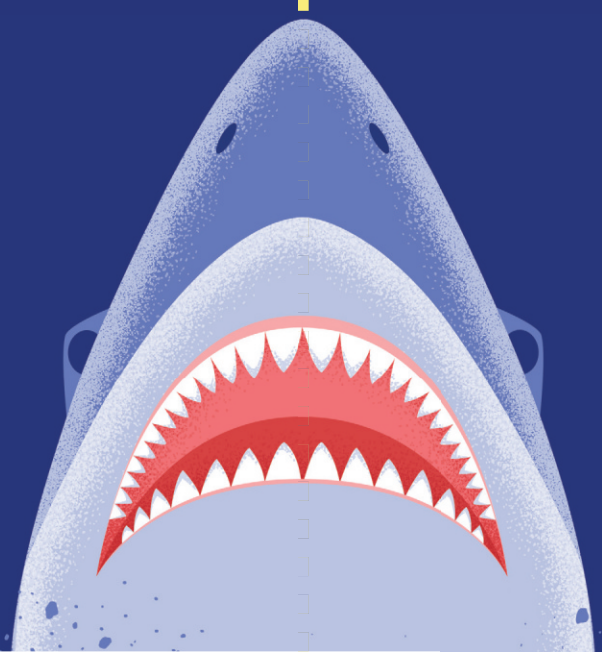

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‘A VERY WISE SOUL’

R&B singer-guitarist H.E.R. has become a consummate Grammy artist at just 24

H.E.R. has received eight nominations for the 64th Grammy Awards, slated for Jan. 31. **PHIL MCCARTEN/INVISION 2019**

By Christi Carras
Los Angeles Times

When H.E.R. helped induct Tina Turner into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame this year, industry veterans ranging from Paul McCartney and Lionel Richie to Carole King and Dave Grohl told her, with certainty, that she would be next.

“That experience was crazy,” she says. “There’s so many artists that I love that came up to me and said, ‘Oh man, you’re going to be a legend one day.’”

At just 24 years old, the R&B singer-guitarist is already well on her way. H.E.R., born Gabriella Sarmiento Wilson, recently received eight nominations for the 64th Grammy Awards, including song of the year for “Fight for You” and album of the year for her first official studio LP, “Back of My Mind.”

It might come as a surprise that “Back of My Mind” is technically H.E.R.’s debut album (she herself has pushed back against that characterization in previous interviews), considering it’s her third project to compete for the top Grammys honor. Her eponymous 2017 entry and 2019’s “I Used to Know Her” were both considered compilation albums, combining a series of acclaimed EPs.

“This was a deeper dive,” she says. “‘Back of My Mind’ (is) me saying, ‘This is exactly who I am. This is what I want.’ I’m a lot more sure. And I’m ready to fully submerge myself in that confidence, in that certainty. And that’s just part of life. It’s part of growing up.”

With 21 total career nominations, H.E.R. has quickly established herself as a Grammy (and now Oscar) darling — appealing to voters who value musicianship and social consciousness over mere streaming numbers. She may not boast as many Hot 100 hits or social media followers as some of her competitors in the general field categories, but she can write songs and play piano, drums, guitar and bass — and that clearly means a lot to her peers.

“She has a very wise soul,” says Brittany “Chi” Coney, one-half of the songwriting and production duo Nova Wav, nominated in the album of the year category with H.E.R. for contributing to “Back of My Mind.” “She knows what she wants. I love how sure she is. And even if she’s not sure, you’ll never know.”

“She’s not afraid to go and try things,” says Coney’s partner, Denisia “Blu June” Andrews. “She’s not afraid to make mistakes. That’s why she is where she is.”

H.E.R. grew up in Vallejo, California, where her father was a construction worker during the week and a musician on the weekends.

She often watched her dad’s band perform before eventually playing alongside him in the same city that produced the likes of Sly Stone and E-40.

“There’s a lot of legends that come out of Vallejo,” she says. “It really is the foundation of who I am, being from the Bay Area. I’m blessed to have had that sense of community and that love for music in my blood.”

By 14, Gabriella “Gabi” Wilson had already attained child-prodigy status by signing with a major record label and securing mentorship from her role model, Alicia Keys. After releasing her debut single “Something to Prove” in 2014, however, Wilson retreated from the limelight and eventually reemerged as H.E.R.

Since then, she has been carefully and methodically feeding the public access to her image and past via interviews, awards show appearances, brand deals and, of course, her music.

H.E.R. takes cues from her musical heroes, some of whom she’s been fortunate to join onstage.

In September, for the Global Citizen Live benefit concert, she deftly plucked the strings of her chrome Fender Stratocaster alongside Stevie Wonder for a funky, crowd-pleasing performance of his classic “Superstition.”

“He wants to create with me,” H.E.R. says. “He called me one time with an idea, and he was, like, singing to me over the phone. I’m like, ‘Is Stevie Wonder singing to me right now?’ That was mind-blowing because I listened to Stevie Wonder almost every day in my house.

“But I’ve had a lot of those kinds of moments,” she continues, before another one comes to mind: winning song of the year at the 63rd Grammy Awards for “I Can’t Breathe,” a haunting protest anthem inspired by the Black Lives Matter demonstrations of summer 2020.

On Jan. 31, H.E.R. could collect the coveted prize again for another poignant track with a message to impart. “Fight for You,” the soulful tune she penned for the soundtrack of “Judas and the Black Messiah,” about the movement for Black liberation, is up for three honors, including song of the year and song written for visual media.

In April, she officially reached half-EGOT status when “Fight for You” landed the Oscar for original song.

She’s pleased to see “Fight for You” garner recognition from both the film and music academies — especially in the form of a Grammy nomination for traditional R&B performance. Also nominated in the R&B categories is “Back of My Mind,” which H.E.R. crafted as a sweeping, sonic love letter to the genre in all its forms, and its track “Damage.” For H.E.R., making R&B music is an act of giving back to the people. “R&B lives in everything,” she says. More than just “a good beat,” she believes the ever-evolving style provides listeners with “meaningful lyrics ... that makes them feel something” — especially during 2020, a year of death and devastation caused by widespread illness and police violence.

“It’s important for me to always lead and be a voice, and R&B is one of those things that I represent,” she says.

She recalls asking one of her R&B predecessors, Erykah Badu, why some are claiming “R&B is dead” — to which Badu replied, “R&B is the people. So how could it be dead?”

“R&B will always be my foundation,” says H.E.R. “I’m paving the way for Black or Filipino — or both — artists to do R&B and know they don’t have to compromise themselves.”

With Grammys glory, a world tour and an acting career on the horizon, H.E.R. — whose stage acronym stands for “Having Everything Revealed” — is more visible than ever. But she hasn’t revealed everything. Not yet.

“It’s gradual,” she says. “They say the eyes are the window to the soul, and I’ve always said my music is the window to my soul. I’m slowly opening up the curtain, peeling back some of the layers.”

Pantone

from Page 1

rewriting our lives,” said Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute. “It just seemed right that we create a new color. Veri Peri is a reflection of our will and determination to find alternative solutions. It’s a symbol of the global zeitgeist in this moment of transition.”

Veri Peri is certainly futuristic. In a webinar Pantone hosted recently, Pressman likened the saturated metallic to the metaverse — not Mark Zuckerberg’s, but the world that links our real lives with our digital ones. Pantone worked with Microsoft Teams to create a collection of wallpapers for its Windows users.

“Its courageous presence encourages personal inventiveness,” Pressman said. “As we emerge from an intense period of isolation, our notions and standards are changing.” Veri Peri is illuminating, she said. It represents strength, optimism, new ideas, and new projects. “It speaks to the small, every day actions that are creating massive global change,” she added.

Pantone selected two colors for 2021: a steely Ultimate Gray and a sunny yellow it named Illuminating. Together these two colors were spirit-lifters, representing, hope in a stormy world. That was different.

I can’t say the same about Pantone’s 2022 choice. Color enthusiasts like myself will say it’s been there, done that. Of Pantone’s 23 colors of the year, 10 are in the blue/purple family. Pantone’s first color of the year, back in 2000, was Cerulean. And in the years Pantone ran rogue with pink, in 2001 with Fuchsia Rose and in 2011 with honeysuckle, those rosy shades skewed blue.

“We feel that at a time like this people want something that’s familiar,” Eiseman said. So yes, Veri Peri is a part of Pantone’s beloved blue family, Eiseman said. “It’s a blue and the red is just an undertone. This is not a tranquilizing blue. It’s not a quiet blue. It’s a blue that has presence.”

I don’t want to be quiet. I want to hit the ground running. I need passion. I’m over the safety of blue. Where are the fiery reds and oranges that show compassion and shake up the status quo. The time to relax is over.

We aren’t there yet, cautions Eiseman. We are in a moment of transition. Veri Peri is flexible. You can wear it at a cocktail party, and it works in sportswear. It’s splattered throughout decor, especially in restaurants. People like eating in peace.

“We selected that color because it feels warm, modern, inviting and timeless,” said Mark Wilson, owner of the Wilson’s Restaurant & Live Music in Hi-Nella, New Jersey.

And it’s a cool shade of lipstick.

“Periwinkle is so beautiful,” said Marcia Vanessa Williams, founder of Conshohocken-based Embellish Beauty.

Sweater

from Page 1

said Maxine Bédat, the founder of the New Standard Institute, a nonprofit founded to define and create a framework for fashion’s sustainability claims. “The more products you add to your offering, the more diffuse and complicated the manufacturing becomes, and as a result it is very rare today for fashion companies to both be able to trace their full supply chains and be willing to disclose them.”

Consider the fact that the average merino wool sweater will travel 18,000 miles over the course of its production before it reaches a store shelf, according to Bamford, the British farm-to-table luxury brand.

Tracing that journey is easier, of course, if a brand is small enough to do everything itself or if a new brand is built with transparency in mind. But few founders were thinking that way even a decade ago, and almost no brand owns every step of the process of creation, from farm to finished product.

For the consumer, that means it is extremely difficult to know, as you browse the shelves looking for the perfect chunky knit or comfortable wrap, whether what you are seeing has been made responsibly, with environmental and social factors in mind.

That’s why, two years ago, Loro Piana, which was bought by LVMH for $2.6 billion in 2013, decided to pin down its processes so that it can now include a garment tag telling potential buyers that “this knitwear has been coming from a bail that was taken in that specific region in that year or that month of that year,” said Fabio d’Angelantonio, the former Loro Piana CEO (he was replaced in late October by Damien Bertrand). And that bail originated on the backs of that herd.

The project was introduced earlier this year with Loro Piana’s vicuña products and has now been extended to include cashmere and baby cashmere, the company’s biggest sellers.

Given that the average Loro Piana cashmere sweater will be touched by approximately 100 hands in at least three countries as it makes its way from Mongolia to Italy to its final store, and will involve more than 13 processes over 18 months to two years, that was no small undertaking.

Arguably such traceability was possible only because the luxury brand has the ... well, luxury, of knowing its herders — it has been sourcing, spinning, weaving and finishing cashmere since 1924 — and because its extremely well-heeled customers are willing to pay for the information.

And Loro Piana is gambling that increasingly it will be part of the fashion value proposition. That each physical gift should also bring with it the gift of knowledge.

In place of trickle-down economics, think of it as trickle-down transparency.

Growing community of sleuths tuning into series 'Yellowjackets'

By Lorraine Ali
Los Angeles Times

Jasmin Savoy Brown, left, and Liv Hewson in "Yellowjackets."
KAILEY SCHWERMAN/SHOWTIME

Call it a cross between "Lord of the Flies" and "Heathers." Or the Spice Girls meet the Donner Party. Or my horrible high school years retold in a blood-spattered forest. Showtime's suspenseful psychological thriller "Yellowjackets" is many things, including my favorite new mystery drama of 2021.

If you've missed it, don't worry. You really haven't. It's on a premium cable network that doesn't garner as much hype as HBO or enjoy the global scale of a streamer like Netflix. It airs weekly, meaning the story, and the conversations it's generating among a growing community of "Yellowjackets" sleuths, are far from finished.

Created and executive produced by Ashley Lyle and Bart Nickerson, the series alternates between 1996 and the present day as it follows members of New Jersey's state champion Yellowjackets, one of the nation's top-ranked girls high school soccer teams. On their way to a championship game in Seattle, their plane crashes somewhere in the wilds of Ontario, Canada, where they're stranded for 19 months.

In their fight for survival, madness descends upon the group. Mean girl competitiveness grows into a ruthless hierarchy, replete with guerrilla warfare, black magic, animalistic rituals and savagery that rivals "The Revenant."

Those who survived the ordeal are the women we meet in 2021. They have become a public source of fascination, especially now that it's the 25th anniversary of the crash: What happened out there in the woods? The former teammates made a pact never to tell, but now they're receiving postcards from someone who's threatening to spill their secrets. But who? And why? And then there's a murder ...

The search for the truth becomes an addictive quest in this dark, mysterious and thrilling story that re-imagines the vicious social pecking order of teenage girls in a live-and-let-die setting. When the social norms formed in high school break down, brutality ensues.

The Yellowjackets start out as the usual archetypes: the perfect, prudish and pretty Jackie (Ella Purnell) and her unassuming sidekick Shauna (Sophie Nelisse as a teen; Melanie Lynskey as an adult). The drug-addled burnout Natalie (Sophie Thatcher/Juliette Lewis). The competition-driven athlete Taissa (Jasmin Savoy Brown/Tawny Cypress). And the bespectacled outcast Misty (Samantha Hanratty/Christina Ricci). But it's clear from the pilot, when fur-clad wildlings are shown chasing one of their tribe through the snow until she falls into their trap and is impaled on their primitive spikes, that this is far from a "Clueless" rivalry in the quad.

Ricci's nerdy Misty appears meek, but she's a manipulative sociopath whose chirpy demeanor is downright chilling. Lynskey's Shauna is a stay-at-home mom who's the picture of low self-esteem and suppressed rage. It's only a matter of time before she blows. And Lewis' Natalie may be a disheveled mess, but underneath the whiskey fumes and leather, she's a driven investigator who's determined to figure out who's sending the postcards. And who's a murderer. In this cruel world, though, her deep-seated empathy could also be her downfall.

The engaging young performers who play their teen counterparts ably set the stage for this creepy and compelling tale. They're accompanied by a soundtrack filled with wily female voices from the era — Salt-N-Pepa, Hole, Liz Phair, PJ Harvey — painting a complete picture of Gen X anger and angst, only this time it's not about the flannel-clad boys.

No matter where it ends up, watching these girls and women unleash their inner beasts is worth the ride.

Where to watch: Sundays on Showtime

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): You might be pulled aside to chat with several different people throughout the day. Be prepared for your peers to have a lot to say. They'll all help boost you to more productive and knowledgeable places than you previously occupied.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): A healthier life doesn't need to wait until next year! Today will likely be quite busy for you, what with the stars creating a positive ruckus in both your daily work and health sectors. Place your best foot forward. Consider getting started on them right now.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): This could be one of the most positive days you've experienced in ages! Don't wait for an invitation to take center stage and bask in the spotlight. Think about the things that bring you joy, whatever they might be, and make them a priority. If it makes your heart happy, chase after it with enthusiasm.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Something is brewing under your own roof, but that isn't a bad thing! It may be a good moment to start some home renovations or a redecorating project or even just to host a few friends for the evening. Handle today on your own terms and you could have a lovely time.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Things might start happening before you even wake up, creating a whirlwind that may feel like it blows out of the house the moment you get out of bed. While this might seem a little daunting, it could be a day full of opportunities, as something unusual might happen while you're out.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Money issues could become much clearer at present when you apply your powerful focus to them, Virgo, helping you find clarity about what you might need to accomplish in the days ahead. A family member could let you in on a great opportunity when least expected.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You've got a special sparkle today, lighting you up with grace. You might feel like sharing the deeper side of yourself, so don't take up center stage just to say silly or shallow things. Allow people to hear what you're really about — they could be pleasantly surprised with just how elegant you are.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Art is everywhere, and you might be particularly good at seeing it at the moment. You view the world in more abstract and inspired ways. If you've got a hobby or talent you enjoy, be it singing, painting, dancing! You might wind up channeling something truly spectacular.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Caring warmth infuses the air at this time — but rather than expecting people to care about you, you can be the one caring for others. Dedicate a few hours to giving and helping. Whether this means spending time at a soup kitchen or donating clothes to a nonprofit!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): All eyes are on you, Capricorn! The stars are encouraging you to stand up for yourself and show the world how amazingly capable you are. You'd be wise to get to work soon. Whether or not you have actual work to tend to, you should still be able to find a productive goal.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Self-reflection is encouraged by today's grounding atmosphere — mainly thanks to your house. Think on a larger scale. Grow into your best self. Take this time as a checkpoint to look at yourself and see how far you've come — and how much further you can go in the future!

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You might feel some heat as the planets turn the intensity up a few notches today! It may get a little difficult to see the forest for the trees at this time. Lead with your heart rather than your head, and you'll likely get much further than you expected. Don't be daunted!

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 27, 1831, naturalist Charles Darwin set out on a round-the-world voyage aboard the HMS Beagle.

In 1932, New York City's Radio City Music Hall first opened.

In 1949, Queen Juliana of the Netherlands signed an act recognizing Indonesia's sovereignty.

In 1968, Apollo 8 made a safe, nighttime splashdown in the Pacific.

In 1979, Soviet forces seized control of Afghanistan.

In 1999, space shuttle Discovery and its crew returned to Earth after fixing the Hubble Space Telescope.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton put the first Black judge on the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals serving several Southern states.

In 2002, a defiant North Korea ordered U.N. nuclear inspectors to leave the country.

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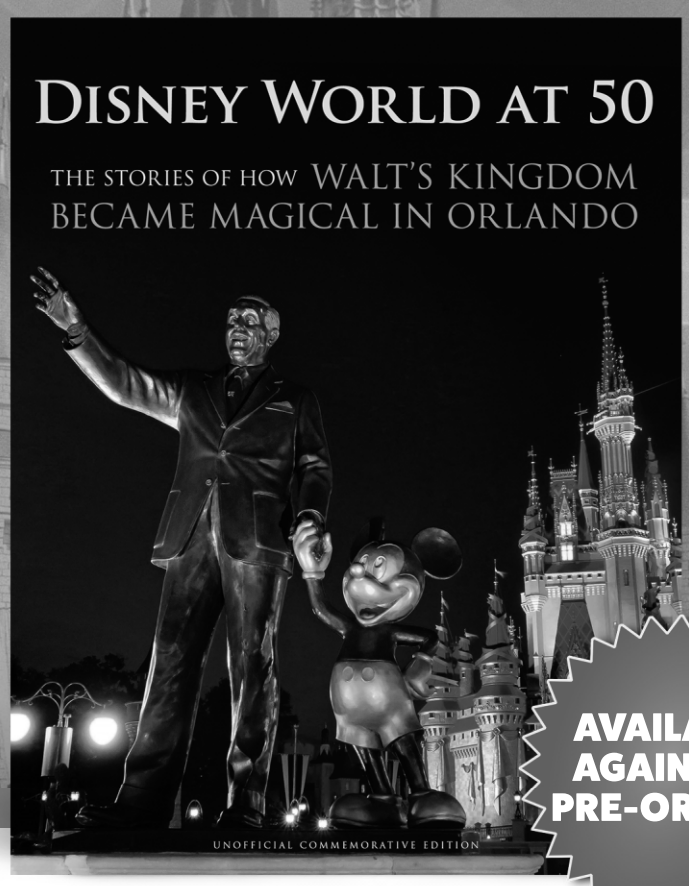

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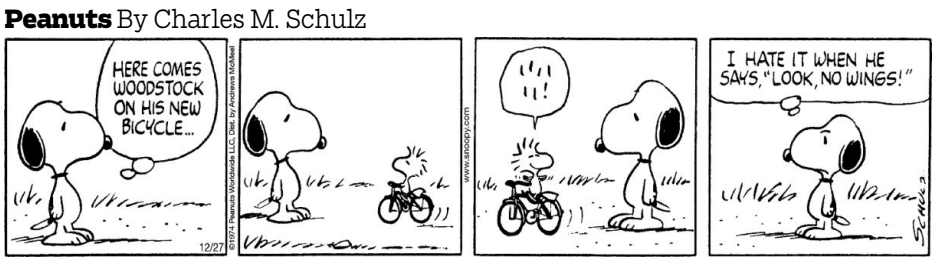
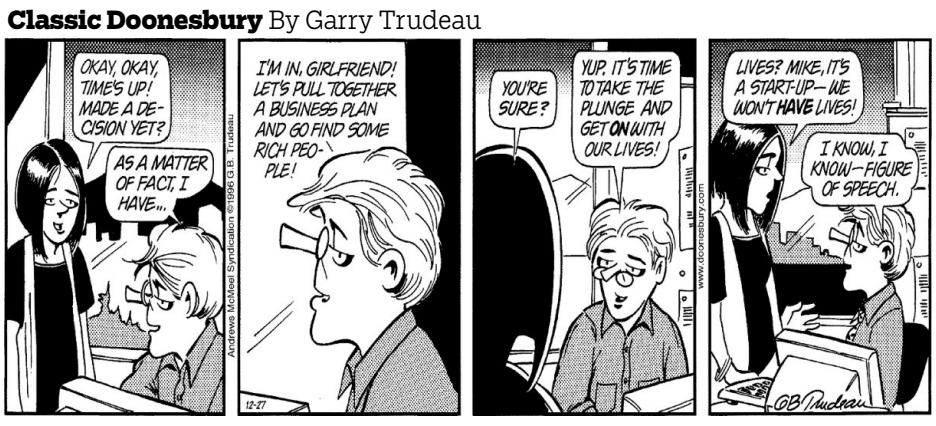
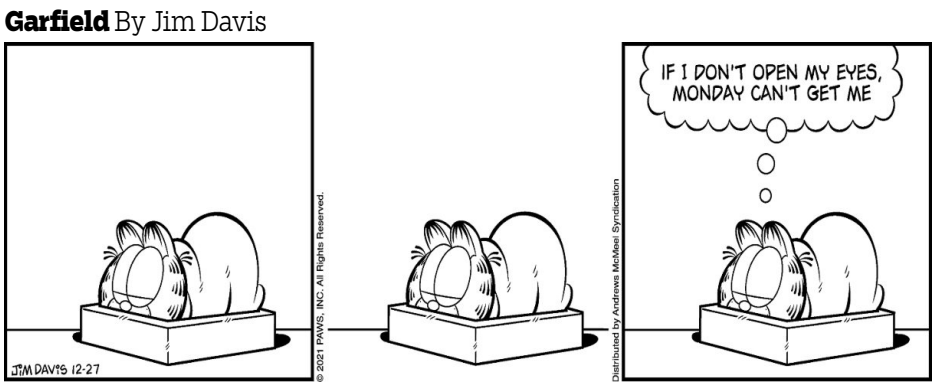


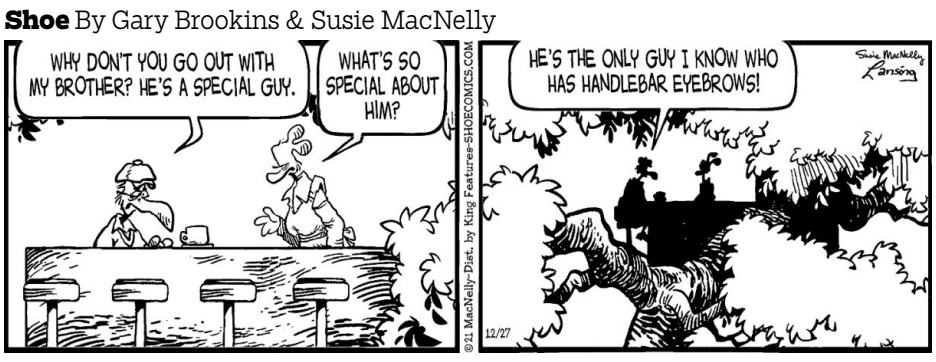
Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



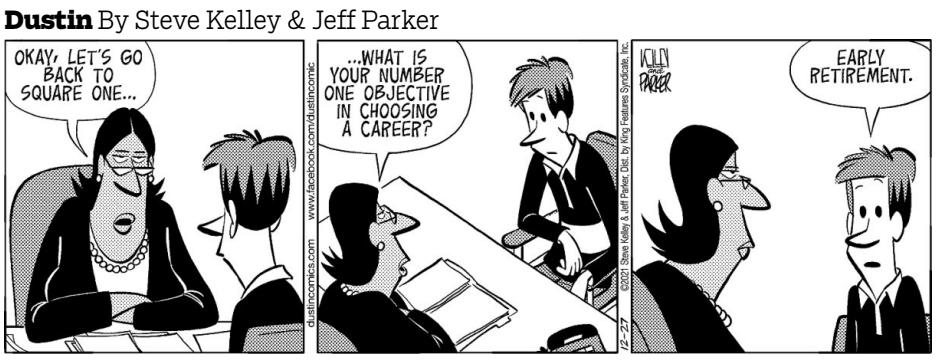
Garfield By Jim Davis



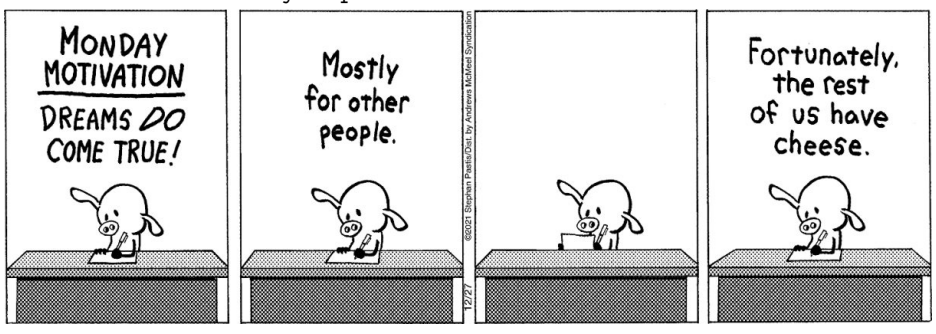
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



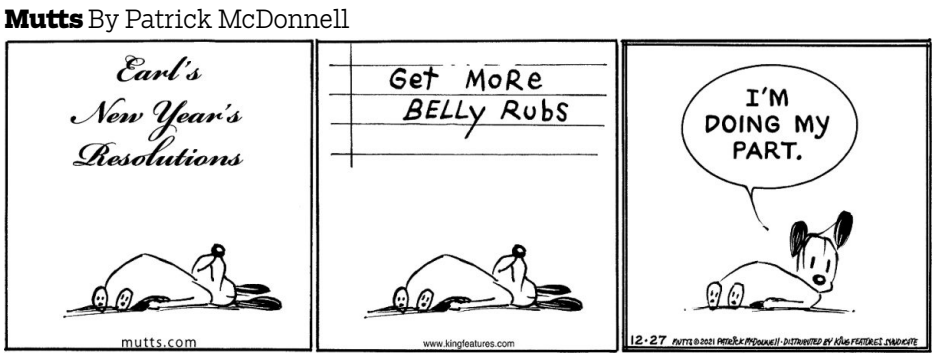
Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



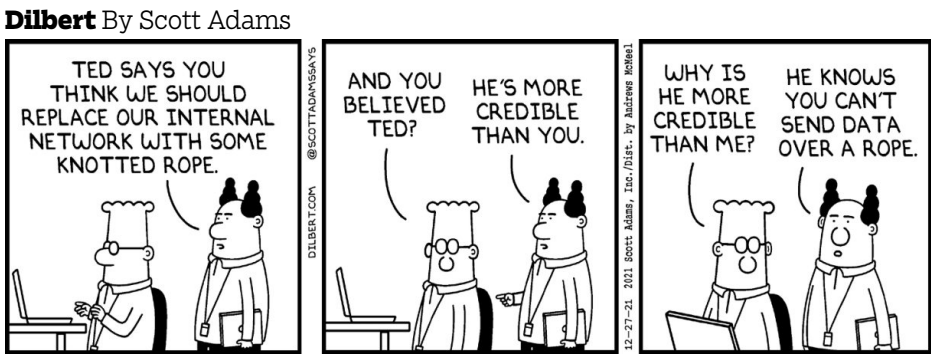
Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt

Jump Start By Robb Armstrong

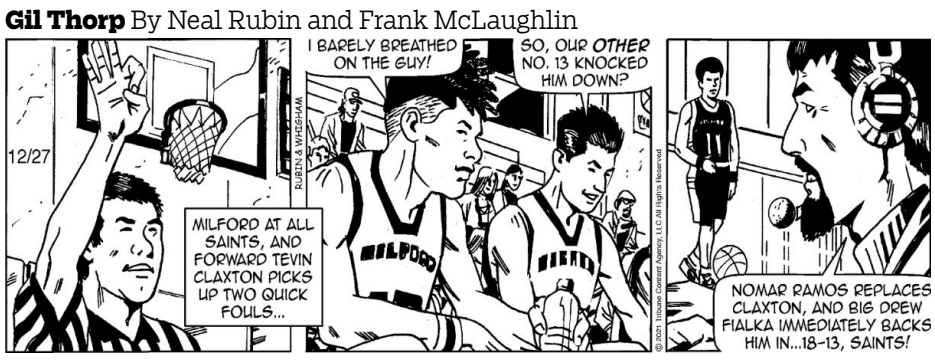
Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley

Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall

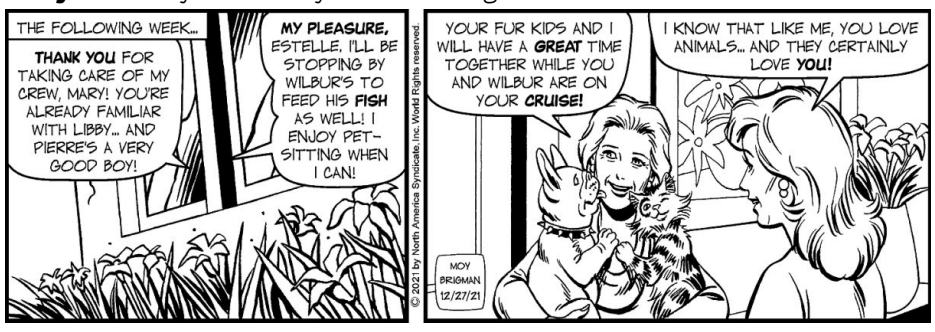
Dilbert By Scott Adams



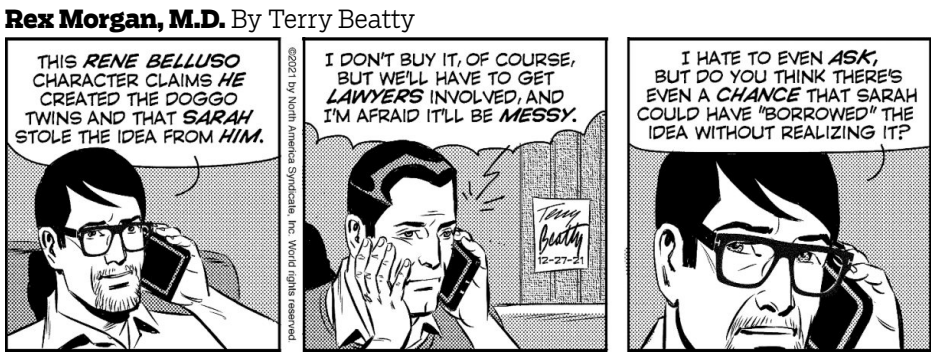
Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



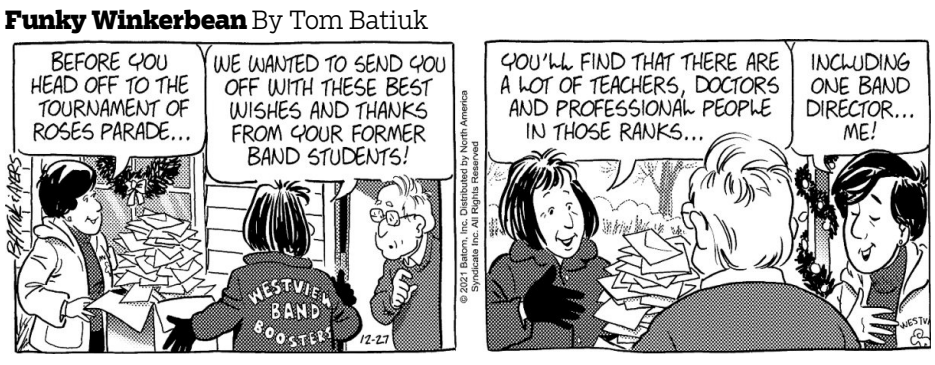
Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



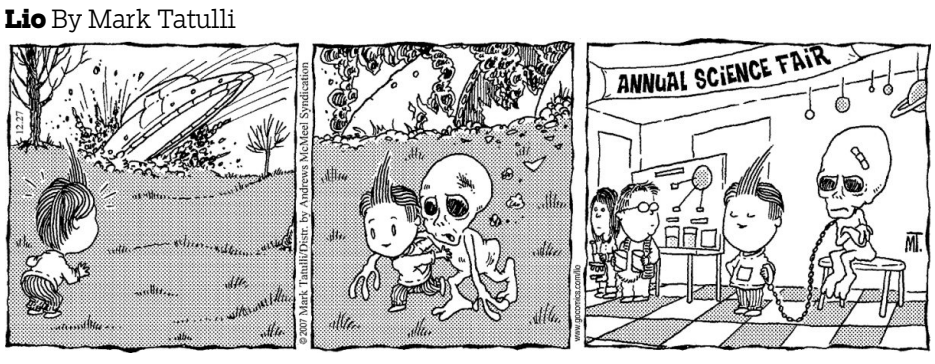
Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley

Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos

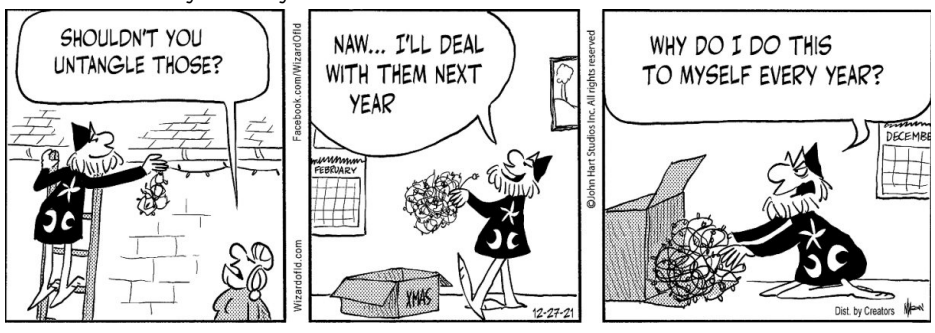
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli

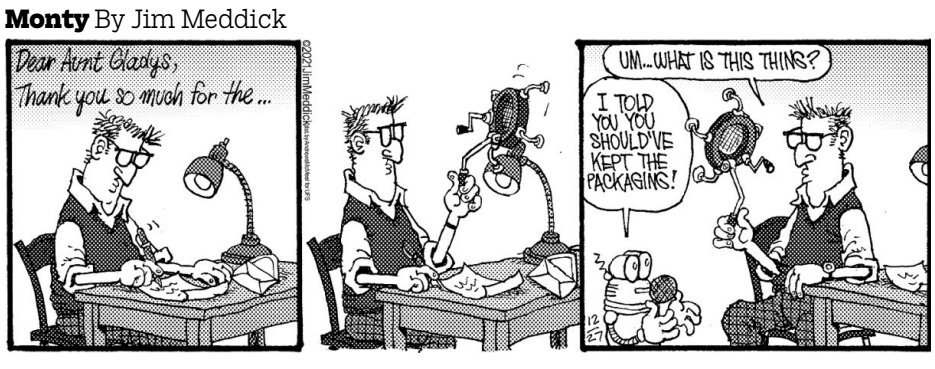


Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker

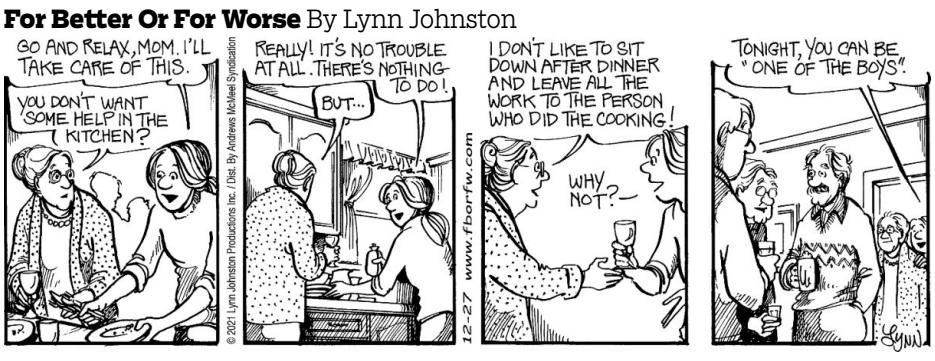


Rhymes With Orange By Hilary Price

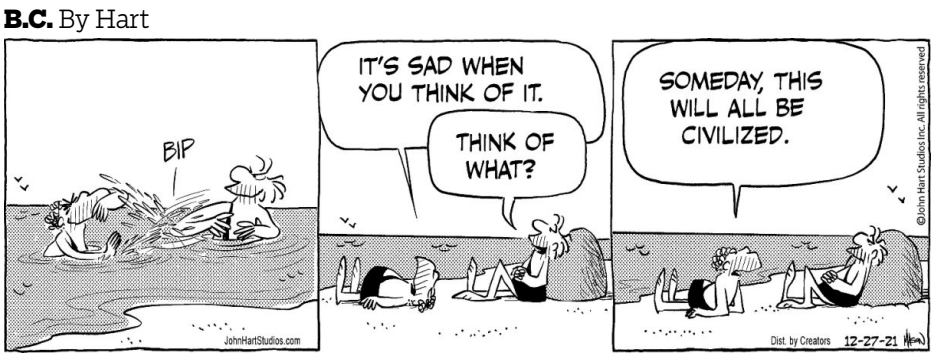
Monty By Jim Meddick



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



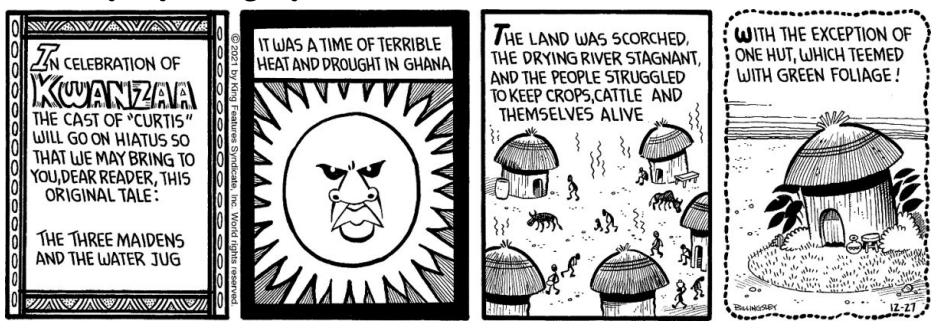
Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker

Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne

Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne

Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller

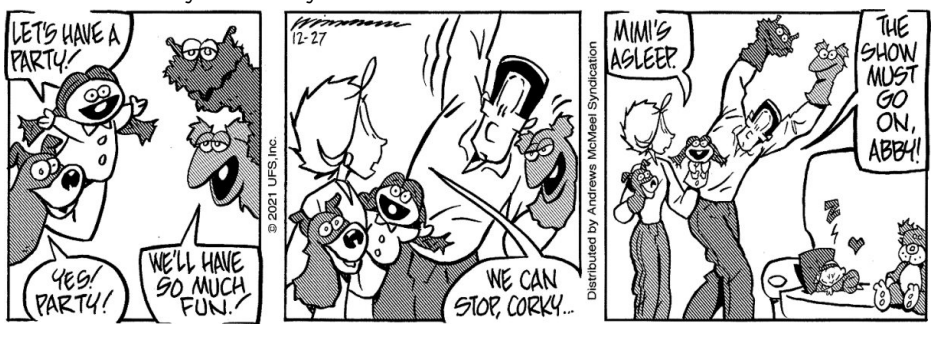
Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane

Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman

Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters

CROSSWORD

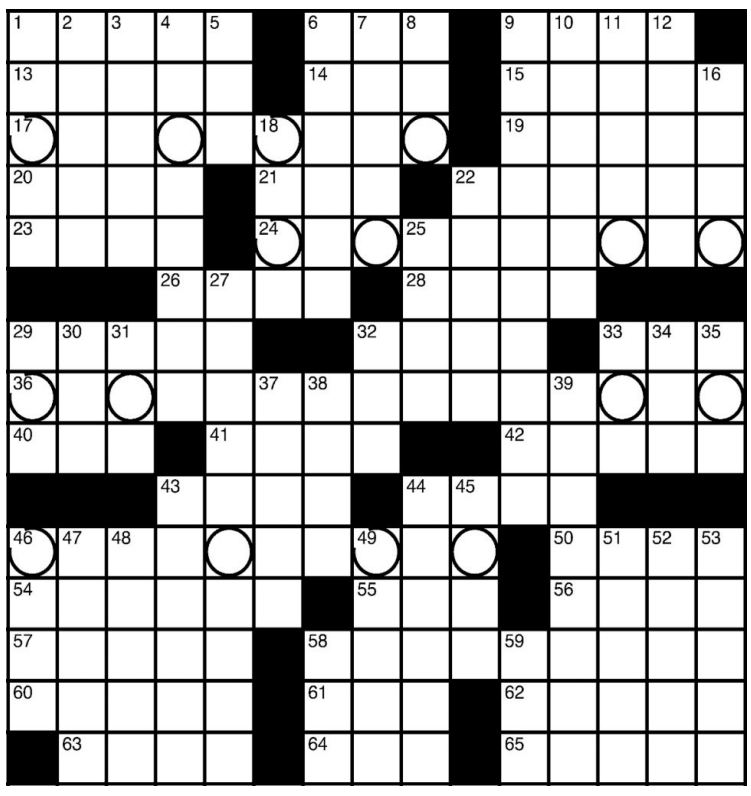
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

1 Maine's __ Bay
6 Miner's find
9 Rotisserie rod
13 __ the time: on every occasion
14 Jinx
15 Saturn's largest moon
17 Become light-headed
19 Cream of the crop
20 Former Montreal MLBer
21 Mauna __: Hawaiian for "long mountain"
22 "Rolling" rockers
23 H.S. hurdles
24 Reason for a track race do-over
26 Wing measurement
28 "Famous" cookie maker
29 Like the crowd after a home team homer
32 Similar (to)
33 Batter's stat
36 Choose love over money, say
40 Driver's aid
41 Pea places
42 Ward off
43 One who saves the day
44 __ Spumante wine
46 Finished version, as of a document
50 Some canine retrievers
54 In equal amounts
55 Nest egg initials
56 Stick-to-it-iveness
57 Mournful melody
58 Totally out of funds ... and what each set of circles shows, casually
60 Passover meal
61 Sleep stage
62 Singer/songwriter Mann
63 Lat. and Ukr., once
64 "__ to Joy"
65 Watchdog's warning

Down

1 Streetside lunch spots
2 Amazon's virtual assistant
3 Was dreaming, perhaps
4 Humongous
5 Aptly named bug spray with an exclamation point
6 Akron native
7 Kidney-related
8 Phone routing no.
9 Top of Texas?
10 Cockpit occupants
11 "Proud Mary" singer's memoir
12 Spud
16 Where many eggs hatch
18 __ Romeo: sports car
22 Final Four round
25 "Oh, for heaven's __!"
27 B-29 movers
29 Rear at sea
30 Sushi garnish
31 Bullfight cheer
32 Reply to a ques.
33 Issa of "Insecure"
34 "It's cold in here!"
35 "The Addams Family" cousin
37 Hardly succinct
38 Skunk's weapon
39 Villainous smile
43 Closet accessory for a coat
44 Ski lodge style
45 "Immediately!" in the ER
46 Govt. agents
47 Yale and Penn
48 "The Big Bang Theory" crowd
49 Stayed home in bed, say
51 Smell
52 Pedal pusher
53 Alloy that symbolizes strength
58 To's partner
59 English lit degs.



By Catherine Cetta — Tribune Content Agency 12/27/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5 3 2
♥ 6
♦ A K 10 9 4
♣ Q 9 5 3

WEST
♠ A 9 4
♥ 7 3
♦ Q 7
♣ A K 10 8 7 2

EAST
♠ J 10 8 6
♥ 9 8 5 2
♦ J 8 5
♣ 6 4

SOUTH
♠ K Q 7
♥ A K Q J 10 4
♦ 6 3 2
♣ J

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♥	2 ♣	2 ♦	Pass
4 ♥			

Opening lead — king of clubs.

Famous Hand

Here is a gem of a hand. It was played in Paris in 1964, and it would probably have never seen the light of day except that a very observant kibitzer witnessed the deal and recorded it for posterity.

West, the then-young French star Jean-Marc Roudinesco, led the king of clubs against four hearts and was faced with a difficult play at trick two. After considering the matter thoroughly — and paying due homage to dummy's threatening diamond suit — Roudinesco shifted to a low spade.

Probably Roudinesco hoped to find his partner with the K-J-10 or K-x, or at the very least the J-10-x-x East actually held, but whatever his thoughts, he obviously felt the low spade lead was the best play he could make.

Declarer took East's ten with the king and played three rounds of trump, planning next to lead a diamond and let West win a trick with the queen whenever he chose to play it. In that way, South would keep East out of the lead and eventually score four diamond tricks to make the contract.

But Roudinesco, suspecting that declarer might be plotting this very play, made a second brilliant move when, on the third round of trump, he discarded the queen of diamonds!

He recognized that the queen of diamonds was of no possible use to him — regardless of whether East or South held the jack — and that it was potentially a millstone around his neck.

At this point, the kibitzer was called to the phone and left the table, certain that Roudinesco's magnificently planned defense would prove successful. But when the kibitzer returned shortly thereafter, he learned to his surprise that South had made the contract! Just how he managed to do so will appear in this space tomorrow.

Tomorrow: Famous Hand — Part 2

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

ROOFG

PITNU

OTMDEH

NWENIR

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: " " "

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: AWAKE NANNY SCULPT SLEIGH
Answer: When they dressed the cat in a St. Nick costume for Christmas, he had — SANTA "CLAWS"

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TODAY'S SUDOKU

		6					5	8
	2			1			3	
	8		6		9			4
					4	3		
		1		5		4		
		2	1					
2			8		1		9	
	5			7			8	
9	7					2		

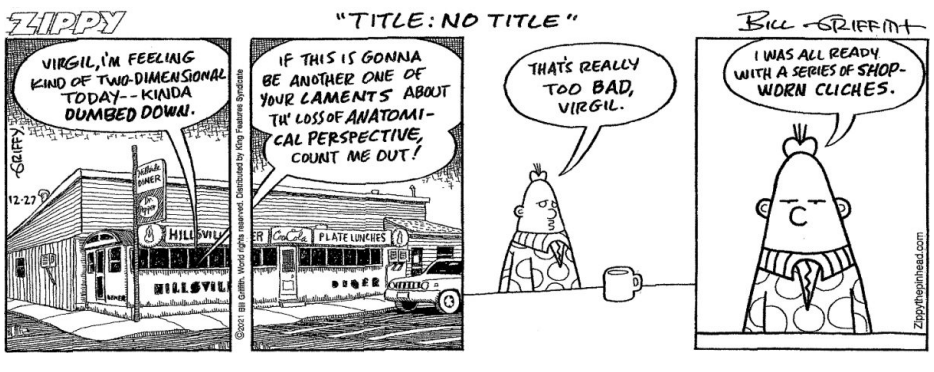
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit **www.sudoku.org.uk**

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

8	6	2	5	7	9	3	1	4
1	4	3	8	6	2	9	7	5
9	5	7	1	4	3	2	6	8
7	2	8	3	9	1	4	5	6
5	3	4	6	2	7	1	8	9
6	1	9	4	8	5	7	2	3
2	7	5	9	3	8	6	4	1
3	8	6	2	1	4	5	9	7
4	9	1	7	5	6	8	3	2

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

G	I	F	T	B	A	S	K	E	T		B	R	E	W
A	R	E	W	E	T	H	E	R	E		L	E	A	H
M	O	D	E	L	T	R	A	I	N		A	L	S	O
	N	S	A			I	N	C	O	G	N	I	T	O
			K	I	L	L		S	N	A	K	E		
S	C	H	E	D	U	L	E	S		L	E	F	T	
L	E	A	D	O	N		L	O	B		D	A	R	K
U	R	N		L	A	C	U	N	A	E		R	O	E
M	E	D	I		R	O	D		S	T	E	E	L	Y
	S	I	N	E		P	E	D	E	S	T	A	L	S
		T	U	L	S	A		I	L	Y	A			
E	X	O	T	I	C	P	E	T			G	B	R	
R	O	V	E		A	L	L	T	I	M	E	L	O	W
A	X	E	R		L	E	M	O	N	F	R	E	S	H
T	O	R	O		P	A	S	S	A	G	E	W	A	Y



BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at ***Play.Jumble.com***

Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

		6		9		4		
				2				
5		3	8		7			
9			6					8
3		5				6		1
6					8			5
		2	4		5	7		3
				7				
		7		3		8		

Level: **1** 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk.*

2	6	8	1	3	9	7	5	4
4	5	1	6	7	2	9	3	8
3	9	7	5	8	4	2	6	1
5	7	9	8	1	3	4	2	6
1	2	6	9	4	7	5	8	3
8	4	3	2	5	6	1	7	9
9	1	2	7	6	8	3	4	5
6	3	5	4	2	1	8	9	7
7	8	4	3	9	5	6	1	2

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: fish, seas and sand

249

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

G G O G G L E S T W E I G H T E Z F
N S H E L L S N G A L I M I D D T R
I F W I N G R X I F O E A X D A K U
M V O L L E Y B A L L B U O Y P H S
M F A B N T R R O B R A H B G S D Y
I L K N X N G G B Y J T U E U O X T
W I I S G N S I X T Z X E L C M R T
S P L E I L N E Y T R O P K R B C E
S P H W L F E E O S V U C C E A J
D E O A X X C R G I H K W A G I E Y
W R B O L U R E L T S A C T B D R L
A S W O L L A H S K P I C N I C Q C
V S E Y Z G N H H N W R W N T S A M
E A G Q T E A N R I J O G I E Z G H
S R G Q T R V R O R C H A N N E L S
M J V S K W Z J P D Y C C R A B S I
H C A E B V L Y E F V N P V F Y G F
L I G H T H O U S E Y A Q B C D J W

AHOY
ANCHOR
ANGLER
BAIT
BALLS
BAY
BEACH
BITE
BOAT
BUOY
CASTLE
CHANNEL
CRABS
CRICKET
DINGHY
DOCK
DRINK
FISH
FLIPPERS
GOGGLES
HARBOR
JETTY
LIGHTHOUSE
LINE
LURE
MAST
NETS
NIBBLE
PICNIC
PORT
REEL
ROPES
ROWING
SHALLOW
SHARK
SHELLS
SPADE
SPINNER
SURF
SWIMMING
TACKLE BOX
VOLLEYBALL
WAVES
WEIGHT

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BOGGLE

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

W	A	V	D
B	E	N	S
U	I	R	E
T	L	C	T

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE® POINT SCALE	YOUR BOGGLE® RATING
3 letters = 1 point	151+ = Champ
4 letters = 2 points	101-150 = Expert
5 letters = 3 points	61-100 = Pro
6 letters = 4 points	31 - 60 = Gamer
7 letters = 6 points	21 - 30 = Rookie
8 letters = 10 points	11 - 20 = Amateur
9+ letters = 15 points	0 - 10 = Try again

Boggle® BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST FIVE WORDS FOR GROUPS OF PEOPLE in the grid of letters.

_____

_____

_____

_____

SECT CREW CLUB BAND TRIBE

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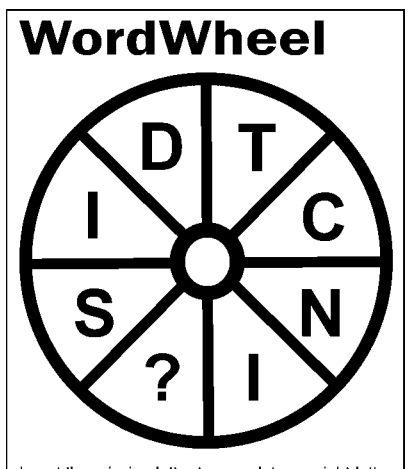
10-4-19

www.bogglebrainbusters.com

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

DISTINCT

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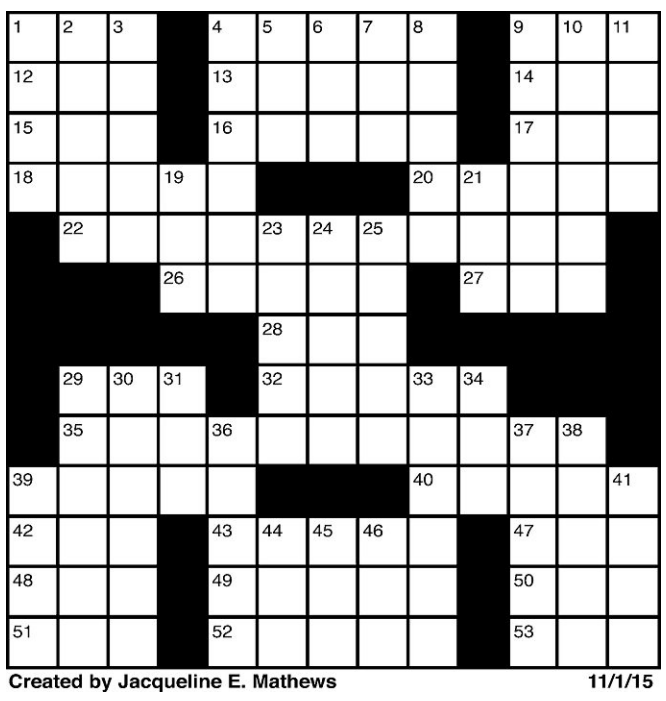
TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 11/1/15

ACROSS
1 Conway or Allen
4 Actress Turner and others
9 Felix or Stimpy
12 Actress and director Lupino
13 Bumbling
14 Montgomery's state: abbr.
15 "__-Stop"; movie for Liam Neeson
16 Caffè __; Starbucks order
17 Actor Gulager
18 Excuse
20 Fireplace residue
22 "CBS Evening News with __"
26 Submerged sandbank
27 Linear measurements: abbr.
28 Actor Brynner
29 Scotsman's cap
32 Vote into office
35 Drama series for Don Johnson
39 Not smashed
40 Lucy and Ricky's landlady
42 "__ Life to Live"
43 "__ Steel"; Henry Cavill sci-fi film
47 Not too long __; recently
48 __ person; apiece
49 Growing older
50 "Tic __ Dough"; game show of old
51 ...FDR, __, DDE, JFK, LBJ...
52 Below, to a poet
53 BPOE member

DOWN
1 Turner or Fey
2 Kelly Clarkson, Carrie Underwood, Jordin Sparks, etc.
3 __-depressive; bipolar
4 Frasier's ex
5 Actress Ortiz
6 Butterfly catcher's need
7 Likely
8 Commit robbery
9 Stored away, as in a computer
10 Actress Kirstie and her family
11 Greek letters
19 Derek and Diddley
21 Stallone, to friends
23 __ with; treated without seriousness
24 __ Zahn
25 Burstyn or Pompeo
29 Steak choices
30 Adopted brother on "Little House on the Prairie"
31 Name for a Stooge
33 AB followers
34 "Sesame Street" fan, often
36 "The Suze __ Show"
37 "10 Things __ About You"; Heath Ledger movie
38 "Boston __"; series that started James Spader and William Shatner
39 Tenth-grader, for short
41 __ up; throw in jail
44 "Men of a Certain __"
45 Peeples or Long
46 Canadian province in which Alex Trebek was born: abbr.

T	I	M	■	L	A	N	A	S	■	C	A	T
I	D	A	■	I	N	E	P	T	■	A	L	A
N	O	N	■	L	A	T	T	E	■	C	L	U
A	L	I	B	I	■	■	■	A	S	H	E	S
■	S	C	O	T	T	P	E	L	L	E	Y	■
■	■	■	S	H	O	A	L	■	Y	D	S	■
■	■	■	■	■	Y	U	L	■	■	■	■	■
■	T	A	M	■	E	L	E	C	T	■	■	■
■	B	L	O	O	D	A	N	D	O	I	L	■
S	O	B	E	R	■	■	■	E	T	H	E	L
O	N	E	■	M	A	N	O	F	■	A	G	O
P	E	R	■	A	G	I	N	G	■	T	A	C
H	S	T	■	N	E	A	T	H	■	E	L	K

11/8/15

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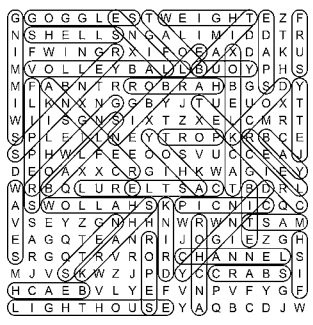
11/1/15

fish, seas and sand



■	A	■	T	■	P	■	G	■	S	■	B	■
E	G	G	W	H	I	T	E	■	C	L	O	P
■	U	■	A	■	A	■	T	■	R	I	L	E
R	E	M	N	A	N	T	■	R	A	C	E	R
■	■	I	G	L	O	O	■	E	M	I	R	■
F	A	N	■	I	■	G	E	L	■	T	O	T
■	B	I	B	■	■	A	B	E	T	■	■	H
C	A	V	O	R	T	■	B	A	U	B	L	E
■	S	A	L	A	R	Y	■	S	N	E	E	R
■	E	N	E	M	Y	■	L	E	A	G	U	E

B L A M E L E S S

JUMBLE

JUMBLE®

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TURET

SIPEO

TAFSEY

GIRHEH

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Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
by David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

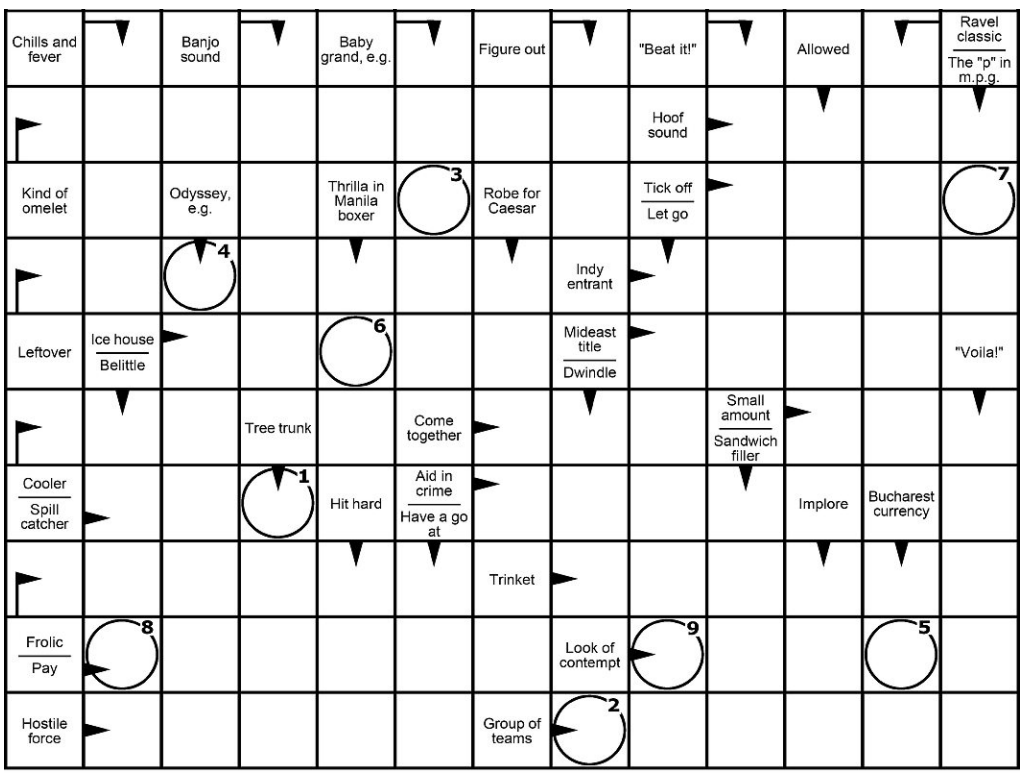
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print your answer here: ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( ) - ( ) ( ) ( ) ( )

Jumbles: UTTER POISE SAFETY HIGHER
Answer: His knowledge about the Scandinavian god of thunder made him an — A-THOR-ITY

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.



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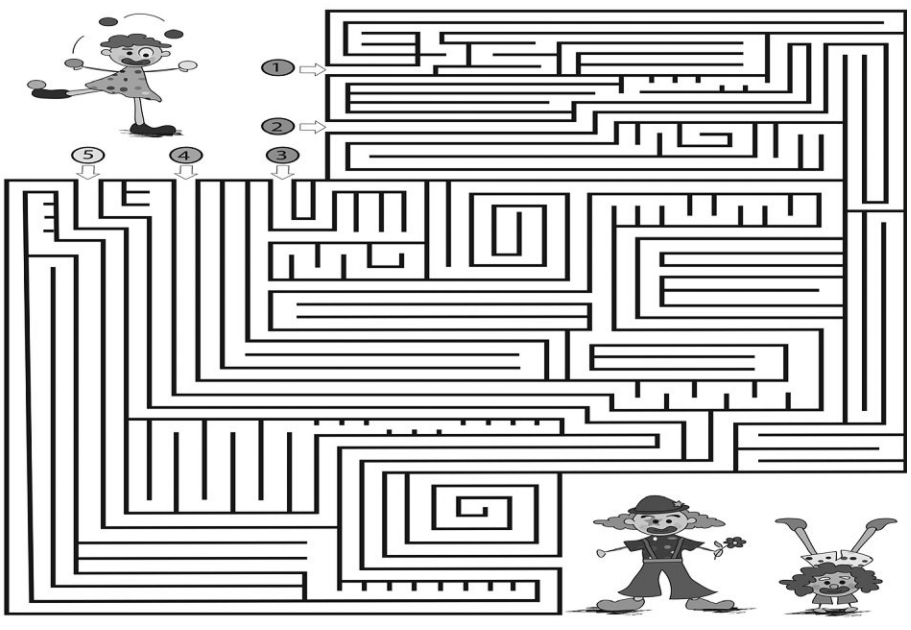
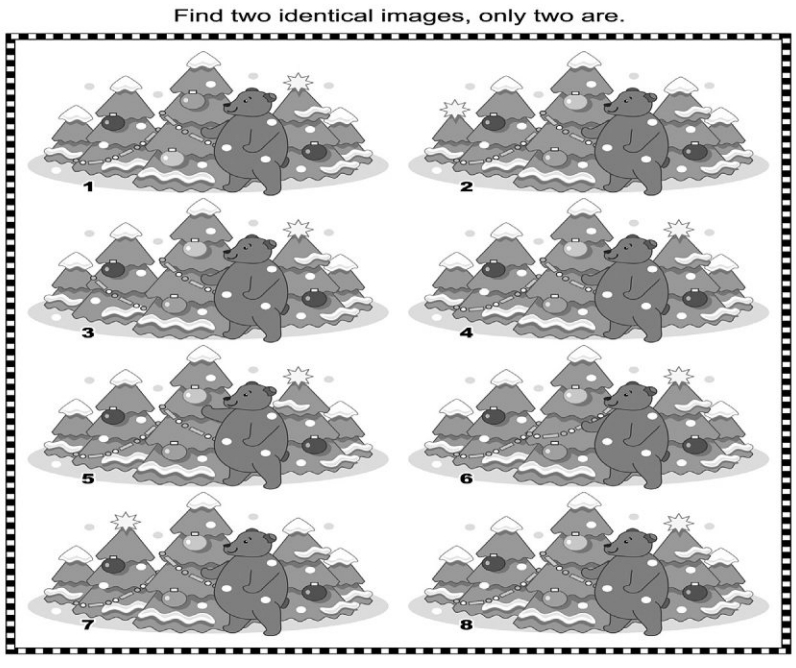
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Find two identical images, only two are.



Hartford Courant
SPORTS
COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UCONN WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Game vs. Marquette canceled due to COVID-19

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

Right as the UConn women's basketball team was about to sink its teeth into conference play, the Huskies face their first game cancellation of the season.

Wednesday's game against Marquette at the XL Center has been canceled, the schools announced Sunday, due to COVID-19 issues within Marquette's program. The Big East will attempt to reschedule the game.

The conference changed its COVID-19 policy last week to stipulate that if a program cannot field at least seven players and one countable coach, the game will be canceled and considered a no contest, unless the schools are able to play at a later date.

The Huskies' next scheduled game is Friday against DePaul in Chicago.

According to UConn, season ticket holders will have access to their seats should the game be rescheduled. If it cannot be, a credit will be applied to the ticket holder's account. Those who bought three-game mini-plans or single-game tickets can also use their ticket for the rescheduled game.

UConn (6-3, 1-0 Big East) hasn't played since a 69-64 loss to Louisville on Dec. 19 in the Basketball Hall of Fame Women's Showcase at Mohegan Sun Arena.

Alexa Philippou can be reached at aphilippou@courant.com.

EAGLES 34, GIANTS 10

Eagles bury Giants with 31-point second half

By Dan Gelston
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jake Fromm got a pep talk before his first NFL start from the ineffective New York Giants quarterback he replaced in the lineup. Mike Glennon's advice was simple: "I told him he's here for a reason. He belongs. Go have fun."

It didn't work.

Fromm got an early hook, giving coach Joe Judge little choice but to bench him in the third quarter with a debut that seemed to get worse with each drive. Fromm finished 6 of 17 for 25 yards and one interception.

His play went a long way toward helping the Philadelphia Eagles send the Giants to their fourth straight loss, 34-10 on Sunday.

"Not ideal," Fromm said.

Not at all.

"It's not the way I wanted to have represented myself, my family or, of course, this organization," Fromm said. "I'm going to learn from it. I don't think it gets much worse than that."

Jalen Hurts threw a touchdown pass to lineman Lane Johnson, linebacker Alex Singleton returned an interception for a score and the Eagles continued their late-season playoff push by scoring 31 points in the second half.

The Eagles (8-7) have won six of eight after opening the season 2-5 and moved into the seventh playoff spot in the NFC. They could clinch a playoff berth with a win and some help next week.

The Eagles can only hope they don't have to play the final two games without running back Miles Sanders after he left the game with an unspecified hand injury.

The play that led to Johnson's touchdown was called

Turn to Giants, *Page 4*

Eagles lineman Lane Johnson finds himself wide open for a touchdown catch Sunday against the Giants. **MATT ROURKE/AP**

BILLS 33, PATRIOTS 21

Bills quarterback Josh Allen celebrates in front of Patriots fans after throwing a touchdown pass to tight end Dawson Knox with 2:30 left in the game Sunday in Foxborough, Mass. **WINSLOW TOWNSON/AP**

Allen's 3 TDs, McKenzie's big day push Bills past Pats

By Kyle Hightower
Associated Press

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. — With their season on the brink and several key players unavailable, the Buffalo Bills trudged into Sunday's pivotal matchup against the New England Patriots needing somebody to step up.

They wound up having too many to count.

Josh Allen threw for three touchdowns, Isaiah McKenzie had a career-high 11 catches, Micah Hyde made two interceptions and the Bills held on to beat the Patriots 33-21 to vault themselves back into first place in the AFC East.

Buffalo (9-6) now holds tiebreakers over New England (9-6) and Miami, and is in the driver's seat to win its second straight division title.

"We've got two more games left and we've got to keep going," said Allen, who finished 30 of 47 for 314 passing yards and 64 rushing yards on 12 carries.

The Bills are the first team to win at New England in consecutive seasons since the Colts in 2005 and 2006. The loss was the Patriots' second straight following their seven-game winning streak.

McKenzie took the place of Bills receivers Cole Beasley and Gabriel Davis, who were both on the reserve/COVID-19 list, and had a big day with 125 yards and a touchdown.

"With them being out, I just had to step up," said McKenzie, whom the Bills shied away from using even to field kickoffs during the blustery Week 13 loss to the Patriots in Buffalo. "It was my turn, and I felt like I had to step up for my team."

The Bills never trailed and played one of their cleanest offensive games of the season, with no punts or turnovers. They were also aggressive, going for it on fourth down three times in the first half, including a fourth-and-2 that helped set up a 12-yard pass from Allen to Stefon Diggs for a 17-7 lead.

That grew to 26-14 early in the fourth quarter after running back Devin Singletary's 2-yard touchdown run. Buffalo was denied on its 2-point conversion attempt.

The Patriots got it to 26-21 with 7:37 to play on Damien Harris' 8-yard TD run, his second of the game, but rookie quarterback Mac Jones struggled to find openings against the Bills' top-ranked defense, ending his day complet-

Turn to Patriots, *Page 4*

JETS 26, JAGUARS 21

Jets edge Jags with goal-line stand in final seconds

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Zach Wilson ran like no other Jets quarterback in franchise history, tossed a touchdown pass to an offensive lineman, and outdueled Trevor Lawrence.

Then he watched New York's defense use a goal-line stand at the end of the game to hold on and beat the Jacksonville Jaguars 26-21 on Sunday.

"That's what makes football so fun right there, guys grinding it out," Wilson said. "The D did a good job right there."

It was the fourth matchup of rookie quarterbacks taken with the first two picks in the draft — and the No. 2 selection came out on top.

Barely.

After Eddy Pineiro's 20-yard field goal gave the Jets (4-11) a five-point lead with 1:47 remaining, Lawrence and the Jaguars (2-13) got the ball back — and had a chance to win.

A 26-yard run by the No. 1 pick got the ball to the 5, and he followed with a 4-yard pass to Marvin Jones. Lawrence spiked the ball and it became fourth-and-the-game.

But Lawrence's pass to Jones fell incomplete — and the Jaguars were called for an illegal shift that the Jets declined.

The Jets had 20 players on the COVID-19 list and played without coach Robert Saleh because he didn't clear protocols after testing positive last week.

"It was just the culmination of the week, everybody being professional, everybody going about their job with all the adversity," said acting head coach Ron Middleton, normally the Jets' tight ends coach who was given a game ball by his team after the victory.

"It was an awesome win."

Wilson set a Jets record for a quarterback with 91 yards rushing, highlighted by a 52-yard score — the longest run by a QB in franchise history. It's also the third-longest TD run by a rookie quarterback in NFL history.

Turn to Jets, *Page 4*

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The new normal

USC and Drake prepare to play in the first round of the NCAA Tournament at a near-empty Bankers Life Fieldhouse on March 20 in Indianapolis. **PAUL SANCYA/AP**

Sports returned in 2021, but not quite the way we were used to

By Eddie Pells
Associated Press

The fans came back, and even if their money was no good at arenas and stadiums, their credit cards and payment apps certainly were.

Though the sports we watch brought with them a façade of "back to normal" as the pandemic-altered 2021 came to a close, a new reality took root this year: Every game, every practice, every season is a positive test or outbreak away from being postponed or compromised or canceled.

Nobody can take any of this for granted anymore.

That's one of the many ways the COVID-19 pandemic carved away at the "old normal" in 2021, a year in which sports came back from the total shutdown the coronavirus triggered in 2020 — but not quite in the way we remembered.

Take March Madness. After being scrubbed in 2020, the college hoops extravaganza returned. But even the term "March Madness" lost a bit of its fun-loving insouciance when, thanks to a video posted on social media by Oregon's Sedona Prince, the inequities between the men's tournament, which used the moniker, and the women's, which did not, were spelled out in stark terms.

COVID-19 forced the NCAA to hold the entirety of both tournaments in one city — the men in Indianapolis, the women in San Antonio — and the ability of the players, and the media, to compare the events side by side, apples to apples, forced the NCAA to confront the ugly reality that, Title IX be damned, it does not treat the women as equals to the men.

That led to a gender-equity study that called for a number of changes — in how the NCAA budgets for the tournaments and, yes, in what it calls them. The "March Madness" brand now belongs to the women, too.

In another change with roots in the pandemic, the days of elite athletes being judged solely on the titles they win, the points they score or the medals they bring home appear numbered — if not gone for good.

A stadium worker at Lumen Field in Seattle checks the COVID-19 vaccine cards of fans before a Seahawks game against the Saints on Oct. 25. Proof of vaccination is now required for entry at many sporting events in the U.S. **JOHN FROSCHAUER/AP**

The face of that movement was gymnast Simone Biles, who, like so many other Olympians, extended her training an additional 12 months, while also enduring a year more of scrutiny and pressure in the leadup to the delayed Tokyo Games.

Overwhelmed by it all, Biles stepped away in the middle of the gold-medal team competition, and in doing so, changed the conversation for the rest of the Olympics, and the rest of sports.

"We also have to focus on ourselves, because at the end of the day we're human, too," Biles said shortly after her withdrawal.

The words shouldn't have needed saying, but they did. Combined with similar expressions from tennis champion Naomi Osaka, they slapped an exclamation point on a long-under-the-radar discussion about athletes and mental health.

Not every change or gain or loss in the 2021 return to sports had to do with COVID-19.

Tiger Woods was in a scary one-car accident in February that could've spelled the end of his competitive playing days. His leg reconstructed after the crash, Woods, who turns 46 on New Year's Eve, conceded his days of being a week-to-week contender — or a contender at all — in top-level golf could be over.

After a jumbled year in horse racing, the calendar returned to normal in 2021, but the sport did not. Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit's victory was tainted by a drug scandal, then in December, the horse died during a training run — a tragic series of events that underscored the drug (and other) problems long embedded in that sport.

Elsewhere in the world of legalized sports gambling, the big-time American leagues all completely did away with the long-held charade that their games were being consumed simply for the fun of it.

As sports betting continued to grow and become legal in more states, it mushroomed into a $150 billion business, by conservative estimates. Leagues such as the NFL, which for decades pretended gambling had no place in its game, went all-in and actively embraced some of the biggest sportsbooks as big-money sponsors.

That gave fans another way to engage in the games they love, while giving the leagues a new source of revenue and a new way to capture eyeballs. All good, it seems, especially given that the leagues, at least on the surface, have set aside the old worries about game-fixing, corruption and integrity that, for decades, made them reluctant to accept full-blown wagering.

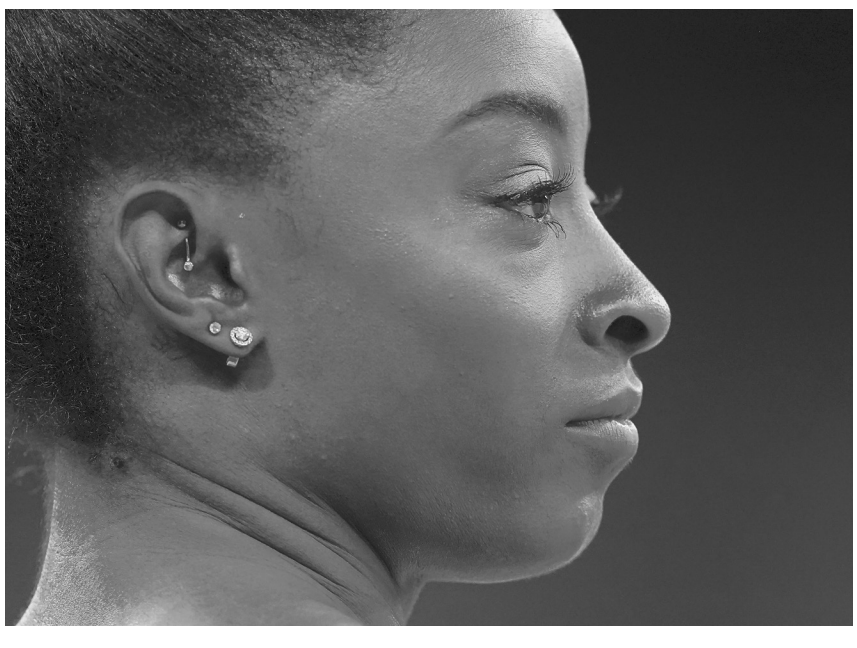
And while legalized wagering is changing the experience of watching a game, COVID-19 is changing the experience of going to one.

The typical security check fans encounter upon entering most arenas now includes a request for proof of vaccine and/or a negative PCR test. Masks are required in some venues. Cash transactions and paper tickets are becoming things of the past. Contactless payments are in.

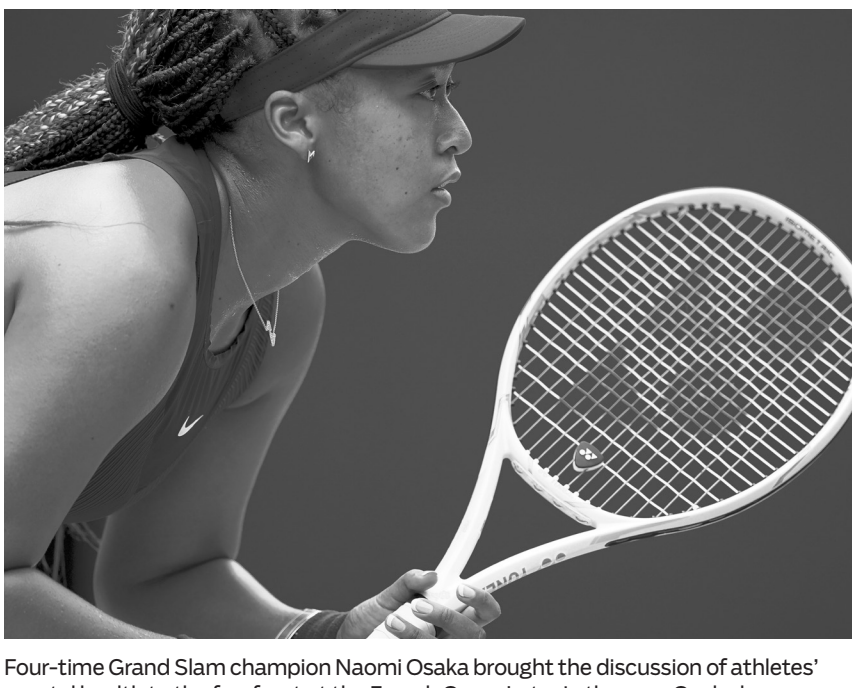
All this, of course, is assuming the game is even going on. The slow trickle of positive tests and team outbreaks that lightly but consistently disrupted the sports calendar through the spring and summer turned into a more steady stream as Christmas approached and the omicron variant of the virus spread.

Practices were canceled. Games were called off. Teams and leagues tried clamping down with more stringent vaccine and testing rules.

All was being done in hopes of keeping things moving along — keeping the fans happy, the players healthy, the revenue flowing and keeping on with "business as usual." But if nothing else, what the return to sports taught us all in 2021 is that no such thing exists anymore.



U.S. gymnastics star Simone Biles surprised many when she took herself out of the team competition at the Tokyo Games. Biles' decision put the spotlight on the intense pressure facing athletes at the Olympics. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**



Four-time Grand Slam champion Naomi Osaka brought the discussion of athletes' mental health to the forefront at the French Open. Later in the year, Osaka became the first tennis player to light the Olympic cauldron. **PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP**

"We also have to focus on ourselves, because at the end of the day we're human too."

— Simone Biles

NFL

AFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	427	264	4-3-0	5-3-0	6-5-0	3-1-0	4-1-0
New England	9	6	0	.600	388	260	3-5-0	6-1-0	7-3-0	2-3-0	3-2-0
Miami	7	7	0	.500	285	312	5-3-0	2-4-0	5-5-0	2-2-0	3-2-0
e-N.Y. Jets	4	11	0	.267	276	449	3-5-0	1-6-0	4-7-0	0-4-0	0-5-0
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
Tennessee	10	5	0	.667	357	326	6-2-0	4-3-0	6-4-0	4-1-0	4-1-0
Indianapolis	9	6	0	.600	420	316	4-4-0	5-2-0	7-3-0	2-3-0	3-2-0
e-Houston	4	11	0	.267	248	401	2-6-0	2-5-0	4-7-0	0-4-0	3-2-0
e-Jacksonville	2	13	0	.133	217	396	2-6-0	0-7-0	2-8-0	0-5-0	0-5-0
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
Cincinnati	9	6	0	.600	410	324	4-4-0	5-2-0	7-3-0	2-3-0	4-1-0
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	355	356	5-2-0	3-5-0	5-6-0	3-1-0	1-4-0
Pittsburgh	7	7	1	.500	301	371	5-2-1	2-5-0	5-5-0	2-2-1	2-2-0
Cleveland	7	8	0	.467	314	329	5-3-0	2-5-0	4-6-0	3-2-0	2-2-0
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
y-Kansas City	11	4	0	.733	421	306	7-2-0	4-2-0	6-4-0	5-0-0	4-1-0
L.A. Chargers	8	7	0	.533	408	411	4-4-0	4-3-0	5-5-0	3-2-0	2-2-0
Las Vegas	8	7	0	.533	316	387	4-4-0	4-3-0	6-4-0	2-3-0	2-3-0
Denver	7	8	0	.467	298	260	4-4-0	3-4-0	3-7-0	4-1-0	1-3-0

NFC

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA	Home	Away	AFC	NFC	Div
x-Dallas	10	4	0	.714	401	293	4-2-0	6-2-0	2-3-0	8-1-0	4-0-0
Philadelphia	8	7	0	.533	398	318	3-4-0	5-3-0	2-3-0	6-4-0	2-2-0
Washington	6	8	0	.429	283	351	3-4-0	3-4-0	1-4-0	5-4-0	1-2-0
e-N.Y. Giants	4	11	0	.267	248	365	3-4-0	1-7-0	1-4-0	3-7-0	1-4-0
South	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
y-Tampa Bay	11	4	0	.733	442	312	6-1-0	5-3-0	4-0-0	7-4-0	3-2-0
New Orleans	7	7	0	.500	313	285	2-4-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	5-5-0	2-2-0
Atlanta	7	8	0	.467	278	400	2-5-0	5-3-0	3-1-0	4-7-0	2-3-0
e-Carolina	5	10	0	.333	277	345	2-6-0	3-4-0	2-3-0	3-7-0	2-2-0
North	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
y-Green Bay	12	3	0	.800	383	324	7-0-0	5-3-0	4-1-0	8-2-0	3-1-0
Minnesota	7	8	0	.467	384	372	4-3-0	3-5-0	2-3-0	5-5-0	3-1-0
e-Chicago	5	10	0	.333	265	373	2-5-0	3-5-0	2-3-0	3-7-0	2-3-0
e-Detroit	2	12	1	.167	259	386	2-5-0	0-7-1	0-4-1	2-8-0	1-4-0
West	**W**	**L**	**T**	**Pct**	**PF**	**PA**	**Home**	**Away**	**AFC**	**NFC**	**Div**
x-L.A. Rams	11	4	0	.733	416	326	5-2-0	6-2-0	3-1-0	8-3-0	3-2-0
x-Arizona	10	5	0	.667	394	306	3-4-0	7-1-0	4-1-0	6-4-0	4-1-0
San Francisco	8	7	0	.533	377	334	3-4-0	5-3-0	2-2-0	6-5-0	1-4-0
Seattle	5	10	0	.333	306	307	2-5-0	3-5-0	3-2-0	2-8-0	2-3-0

e-Eliminated from playoffsx-clinched playoff spoty-clinched divisionThursday's Games

ROUNDUP

Chiefs win division title

Associated Press

Patrick Mahomes threw for 258 yards and three touchdowns, Byron Pringle caught two of the TD passes, and the Chiefs beat the Steelers 36-10 on Sunday in Kansas City, Missouri, to clinch their sixth consecutive AFC West title.

The Chiefs (11-4) remained a game ahead of the Titans for first in the AFC with their eighth straight win.

That would give them the conference's lone first-round bye and home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire had a TD run for the Chiefs before leaving early in the second half with a collarbone injury.

The Steelers (7-7-1) dropped further behind the Bengals (9-6) in the AFC North.

Bucs 32, Panthers 6: The visiting Buccs won their first NFC South title since 2007 as Tom Brady threw for 232 yards and a TD.

Rams 30, Vikings 23: Brandon Powell returned a punt 61 yards for a TD in the third to lift the Rams to the road win and into the playoffs. Sony Michel rushed for a season-high 131 yards and a score for the Rams. The result also sent the Rams' NFC West rival Cardinals into the postseason. The Cardinals fell to the Colts 22-16 on Saturday night.

Bills 33, Patriots 21: Josh Allen threw for three TDs and the visiting Bills held on for the win to move back into first in the AFC East. The Bills now hold tiebreakers over the Pats and Dolphins. Isaiah McKenzie stepped up in place of Bills WRs Cole Beasley and Gabriel Davis, who were both on the COVID list, notching a career-high 11 catches, 125 yards and a score.

Eagles 34, Giants 10: Jalen Hurts threw a TD to lineman Lane Johnson, LB Alex Singleton returned an INT for a score and the host Eagles earned their sixth win in eight games.

Bengals 41, Ravens 21: Joe Burrow threw for a franchise-record 525 yards and four TDs, and the host Bengals took sole possession of first in the AFC North by beating a COVID-depleted Ravens team. The Bengals swept the Ravens for the first time since 2015. Tee Higgins had 12 catches for a career-high 194 yards with two TDs in the win.

Raiders 17, Broncos 13: Josh Jacobs rushed for 129 yards and the Raiders at home to stay in the thick of the AFC playoff hunt. With the Raiders' win and the Titans' victory over the 49ers on Thursday, the Cowboys claimed their first NFC East title since 2018 based on tiebreakers.

Falcons 20, Lions 16: Matt Ryan threw a tiebreaking 12-yard TD pass to Hayden Hurst in the fourth as the host Falcons held on to preserve their playoff hopes.

Bears 25, Seahawks 24: Jimmy Graham caught a 15-yard TD pass from Nick Foles with 1:01 remaining, Damiere Byrd made an acrobatic reception for the 2-point conversion and the Bears earned the road win.

Jets 26, Jaguars 21: Zach Wilson threw a TD pass and ran for one and the short-handed Jets used a goal-line stand at the end of the game to beat the visiting Jags.

Texans 41, Chargers 29: Rex Burkhead ran for a career-high 149 yards and two TDs, and the host Texans took advantage of three turnovers to deal a blow to the Chargers' playoff hopes.

Willie Gay Jr., from left, Jarran Reed and Alex Okafor celebrate during the Chiefs' blowout victory Sunday. **ED ZURGA/AP**

WEEK 16

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta 20, Detroit 16
Buffalo 33, New England 21
Cincinnati 41, Baltimore 21
Houston 41, L.A. Chargers 29
L.A. Rams 30, Minnesota 23
N.Y. Jets 26, Jacksonville 21
Philadelphia 34, N.Y. Giants 10
Tampa Bay 32, Carolina 6
Chicago 25, Seattle 24
Kansas City 36, Pittsburgh 10
Las Vegas 17, Denver 13
Washington at Dallas, late

MONDAY'S GAME
Miami at New Orleans, 8:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S RESULT
Tennessee 20, San Francisco 17

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
Green Bay 24, Cleveland 22
Indianapolis 22, Arizona 16

WEEK 17

SUNDAY, JAN. 2
Atlanta at Buffalo, 1p.m.
Carolina at New Orleans, 1p.m.
Jacksonville at New England, 1p.m.
Kansas City at Cincinnati, 1p.m.
Las Vegas at Indianapolis, 1p.m.
Miami at Tennessee, 1p.m.
N.Y. Giants at Chicago, 1p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 1p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Jets, 1p.m.
Denver at L.A. Chargers, 4:05p.m.
Houston at San Francisco, 4:05p.m.
Arizona at Dallas, 4:25p.m.
Detroit at Seattle, 4:25p.m.
L.A. Rams at Baltimore, 4:25p.m.
Minnesota at Green Bay, 8:20p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 3
Cleveland at Pittsburgh, 8:15p.m.

SUMMARIES

CINCINNATI 41, BALTIMORE 21

Baltimore	7	7	0	7	—	21
Cincinnati	10	21	3	7	—	41

First Quarter
Cin: FG McPherson 30, 11:06.
Bal: Bateman 4pass from J.Johnson (Tucker kick), 5:56.
Cin: Mixon 1run (McPherson kick), :27.
Second Quarter
Cin: Boyd 68pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), 13:18.
Cin: Mixon 9pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), 7:03.
Bal: Freeman 2run (Tucker kick), 1:38.
Cin: Higgins 1pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), :21.
Third Quarter
Cin: FG McPherson 36, :40.
Fourth Quarter
Bal: Andrews 18pass from J.Johnson (Tucker kick), 14:55.
Cin: Higgins 10pass from Burrow (McPherson kick), 10:05.

TEAM STATS	BAL	CIN
First downs	21	33
Total net yards	334	575
Rushes-yards	16-39	21-77
Passing	295	498
Punt returns	0-0	2-16
Kickoff returns	4-61	3-45
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-15
Comp-att-int	28-40-1	37-46-0
Sacked-yards lost	1-9	3-27
Punts	3-44.333	0-0.0
Fumbles-lost	2-0	0-0
Penalties-yards	6-27	5-45
Time of possession	22:57	37:03

RUSHING: Baltimore, Freeman 6-17, L.Murray 5-12, Johnson 5-10. Cincinnati, Mixon 18-65, Burrow 2-11, C.Evans 1-1.
PASSING: Baltimore, Johnson 28-40-1-304. Cincinnati, Burrow 37-46-0-525.
RECEIVING: Baltimore, Andrews 8-125, Proche 7-76, Brown 5-44, Bateman 4-26, Freeman 2-3, Wallace 1-18, L.Murray 1-12. Cincinnati, Higgins 12-194, Chase 7-125, Mixon 6-70, Uzomah 5-36, Boyd 3-85, D.Sample 2-9, Perine 2-6.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Cincinnati, McPherson 50.

ATLANTA 20, DETROIT 16

Detroit	3	7	3	3	—	16
Atlanta	0	10	3	7	—	20

First Quarter
Det: FG R.Patterson 26, 3:25.
Second Quarter
Atl: C.Patterson 6run (Koo kick), 11:01.
Det: St. Brown 20pass from Boyle (R.Patterson kick), 3:54.
Atl: FG Koo 53, 1:04.
Third Quarter
Atl: FG Koo 48, 10:11.
Det: FG R.Patterson 37, 3:06.
Fourth Quarter
Atl: Hurst 12pass from Ryan (Koo kick), 13:10.
Det: FG R.Patterson 26, 2:38.
A: 68,638.

TEAM STATS	DET	ATL
First downs	19	14
Total net yards	338	254
Rushes-yards	33-130	18-47
Passing	208	207
Punt returns	1-19	1-13
Kickoff returns	1-25	3-79
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-6
Comp-att-int	25-35-1	18-24-0
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	3-8
Punts	2-54.5	2-57.5
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-1
Penalties-yards	6-30	2-15
Time of possession	38:05	21:55

RUSHING: Detroit, J.Williams 19-77, C.Reynolds 11-29, St. Brown 2-19, Raymond 1-5. Atlanta, Davis 7-28, Patterson 7-14, Ryan 4-5.
PASSING: Detroit, Boyle 24-34-1-187, Fox 1-1-0-21. Atlanta, Ryan 18-24-0-215.
RECEIVING: Detroit, St. Brown 9-91, C.Reynolds 3-22, Raymond 3-12, Wright 3-4, J.Reynolds 2-36, Kennedy 2-16, Cabinda 2-6, Hodge 1-21. Atlanta, K.Pitts 6-102, Gage 4-39, Zaccheaus 2-32, Hurst 2-21, M.Hall 1-10, Davis 1-7, Blake 1-5, Patterson 1-(-1).
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Detroit, Reeves-Maybin 4-4-0, Melifonwu 4-1-0, Barnes 2-0-1, McNeill 1-0-1. Atlanta, Oluokun 8-6-0, Jones 8-2-0.
INTERCEPTIONS: Atlanta, Oluokun 1-6.

TAMPA BAY 32, CAROLINA 6

Tampa Bay	7	12	10	3	—	32
Carolina	3	3	0	0	—	6

First Quarter
Car: FG Hajrullahu 24, 7:17.
TB: Vaughn 55run (Succop kick), 4:13.
Second Quarter
TB: FG Succop 36, 10:54.
Car: FG Hajrullahu 29, 7:20.
TB: FG Succop 43, 2:40.
TB: Brate 4pass from Brady (pass failed), 1:19.
Third Quarter
TB: FG Succop 21, 8:34.
TB: R.Jones 7run (Succop kick), 2:08.
Fourth Quarter
TB: FG Succop 48, 7:59.

TEAM STATS	TB	CAR
First downs	21	16
Total net yards	391	273
Rushes-yards	31-159	15-67
Passing	232	206
Punt returns	5-44	1-16
Kickoff returns	0-0	2-51
Interceptions ret.	1-7	0-0
Comp-att-int	18-31-0	22-45-1
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	7-45
Punts	3-41.0	5-50.6
Fumbles-lost	0-0	1-0
Penalties-yards	6-50	6-32
Time of possession	35:46	26:36

RUSHING: Tampa Bay, Vaughn 7-70, Jones 20-65, Grayson 1-14, Brady 1-11, Bell 2-(minus 1). Carolina, Newton 5-42, Darnold 1-11, Hubbard 6-9, Bonnafon 1-4, Abdullah 2-1.
PASSING: Tampa Bay, Brady 18-30-0-232, Gabbert 0-1-0-0. Carolina, Darnold 15-32-0-190, Newton 7-13-1-61.
RECEIVING: Tampa Bay, Brown 10-101, Grayson 3-81, Jones 2-16, Brate 2-11, Gronkowski 1-23. Carolina, Anderson 5-58, DJ.Moore 5-55, Smith 3-86, Abdullah 3-8, Tremble 2-22, Bonnafon 2-12, Marshall 1-6, Thomas 1-4.
INTERCEPTIONS: Tampa Bay, Whitehead 1-7

HOUSTON 41, L.A. CHARGERS 29

L.A. Chargers	6	6	3	14	—	29
Houston	7	10	0	24	—	41

First Quarter
LAC: FG Hopkins 50, 10:55.
Hou: Burkhead 25 run (Eberle kick), 6:25.
LAC: FG Hopkins 46, 1:57.
Second Quarter
LAC: J.Jackson 17run (run failed), 11:15.
Hou: FG Eberle 51, 5:11.
Hou: Conley 41pass from Mills (Eberle kick), :27.
Third Quarter
LAC: FG Hopkins 35, 5:42.
Fourth Quarter
Hou: Burkhead 1 run (Eberle kick), 13:37.
Hou: FG Eberle 25, 8:54.
LAC: J.Jackson 9run (Cook pass from Herbert), 5:50.
Hou: N.Collins 13pass from Mills (Eberle kick), 2:32.
Hou: T.Thomas 48interception return (Eberle kick), 1:49.
LAC: Palmer 3pass from Herbert (pass failed), :34.
A: 65,674.

TEAM STATS	LAC	HOU
First downs	25	26
Total net yards	417	437
Rushes-yards	21-89	36-189
Passing	328	248
Punt returns	0-0	0-0
Kickoff returns	5-105	1-0
Interceptions ret.	0-0	2-55
Comp-att-int	27-35-2	21-27-0
Sacked-yards lost	1-8	1-6
Punts	0-0.0	1-53.0
Fumbles-lost	1-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	5-49	10-70
Time of possession	25:08	34:52

RUSHING: L.A. Chargers, Jackson 11-64, Herbert 4-15, Kelley 5-7, Ffrench 1-3. Houston, Burkhead 22-149, Freeman 12-34, T.Smith 1-7, Mills 1-(minus 1).
PASSING: L.A. Chargers, Herbert 27-35-2-336. Houston, Mills 21-27-0-254.
RECEIVING: L.A. Chargers, Jackson 8-98, Palmer 5-43, Allen 4-35, Moore 3-56, Cook 3-44, Anderson 2-34, Kelley 1-14, McKitty 1-12. Houston, Jordan 4-56, C.Moore 4-40, Conley 3-60, Dorsett 3-55, N.Collins 3-33, Brown 2-10, Burkhead 2-0.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Hou, Eberle 52.

N.Y. JETS 26, JACKSONVILLE 21

Jacksonville	3	9	3	6	—	21
N.Y. Jets	6	7	3	10	—	26

First Quarter
Jac: FG Wright 21, 8:12.
NYJ: Z.Wilson 52run (kick failed), 3:54.
Second Quarter
Jac: Richardson 0run (run failed), 13:08.
NYJ: Berrios 102kickoff return (Pineiro kick), 12:57.
Jac: FG Wright 45, 8:15.
Third Quarter
NYJ: FG Pineiro 42, 9:47.
Jac: FG Wright 40, :25.
Fourth Quarter
NYJ: C.McDermott 1pass from Z.Wilson (Pineiro kick), 9:16.
Jac: Ogunbowale 1run (pass failed), 5:25.
NYJ: FG Pineiro 20, 1:47.

TEAM STATS	JAC	NYJ
First downs	27	18
Total net yards	384	373
Rushes-yards	31-132	36-273
Passing	252	100
Punt returns	1-4	1-12
Kickoff returns	1-23	6-228
Interceptions ret.	0-0	0-0
Comp-att-int	26-39-0	14-22-0
Sacked-yards lost	1-28	1-2
Punts	1-59.0	1-55.0
Fumbles-lost	2-1	0-0
Penalties-yards	2-10	7-94
Time of possession	32:18	27:42

RUSHING: Jacksonville, Ogunbowale 17-57, Lawrence 6-37, Austin 3-21, J.Robinson 3-10, Wingard 1-4, Cottrell 1-3. N.Y. Jets, Carter 16-118, Wilson 4-91, Coleman 14-57, Mann 1-4, Berrios 1-3.
PASSING: Jacksonville, Lawrence 26-39-0-280. N.Y. Jets, Wilson 14-22-0-102.
RECEIVING: Jacksonville, M.Jones 8-74, Austin 6-68, Treadwell 4-54, O'Shaughnessy 4-49, Hollister 2-20, Ogunbowale 2-15. N.Y. Jets, Berrios 5-37, Kroft 3-29, Cole 2-25, Carter 2-6, Coleman 1-4, McDermott 1-1.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: None.

LAS VEGAS 17, DENVER 13

Denver	0	13	0	0	—	13
Las Vegas	0	7	7	3	—	17

Second Quarter
Las: Renfrow 10pass from Carr (Carlson kick), 11:01.
Den: FG McManus 49, 7:24.
Den: FG McManus 55, :32.
Den: J.Williams 1run (McManus kick), :15.
Third Quarter
Las: Barber 5run (Carlson kick), 10:22.
Fourth Quarter
Las: FG Carlson 41, 7:35.

TEAM STATS	DEN	LAS
First downs	8	22
Total net yards	158	342
Rushes-yards	16-18	40-160
Passing	140	182
Punt returns	0-0	1-6
Kickoff returns	1-18	1-23
Interceptions ret.	1-21	0-0
Comp-att-int	15-22-0	20-25-1
Sacked-yards lost	2-13	2-19
Punts	5-44.6	2-42.5
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-2
Penalties-yards	3-30	3-37
Time of possession	23:23	36:37

RUSHING: Denver, J.Williams 7-12, Lock 2-10, M.Gordon 7-(minus 4). Las Vegas, Jacobs 27-129, Barber 5-22, Carr 7-5, Richard 1-4.
PASSING: Denver, Lock 15-22-0-153. Las Vegas, Carr 20-25-1-201.
RECEIVING: Denver, Sutton 4-33, Jeudy 3-60, Fant 3-30, T.Patrick 2-18, J.Williams 2-8, M.Gordon 1-4. Las Vegas, Jones 6-50, Moreau 4-67, Jackson 4-44, Renfrow 3-40, Richard 1-5, Barber 1-0, Jacobs 1-(minus 5).
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: Denver, Griffith 6-7-0, Darby 5-1-0, Simmons 4-1-0, Jackson 3-2-0, Reed 3-2-0, Surtain 3-1-0, S.Harris 2-3-1.5, Weatherly 2-2-.5, Callahan 2-0-0, D.Jones 2-0-0. Las Vegas, Trufant 7-0-0, Perryman 4-1-0, Philon 4-0-0, Crosby 3-0-1, Nixon 3-0-0, Jefferson 2-0-1, Hayward 2-0-0, Nassib 1-2-0, Thomas 1-1-0, Jacobs 1-0-0
INTERCEPTIONS: Denver, Chubb 1-21.
MISSED FG: Den, McManus 55.

BUFFALO 33, NEW ENGLAND 21

Buffalo	7	10	3	13	—	33
New England	0	7	7	7	—	21

First Quarter
Buf: McKenzie 3pass from Allen (Bass kick), 6:33.
Second Quarter
NE: D.Harris 16run (Folk kick), 14:28.
Buf: FG Bass 25, 9:01.
Buf: Diggs 12pass from Allen (Bass kick), 1:45.
Third Quarter
Buf: FG Bass 34, 9:02.
NE: D.Harris 1run (Folk kick), 1:41.
Fourth Quarter
Buf: Singletary 2run (pass failed), 11:42.
NE: D.Harris 8run (Folk kick), 7:37.
Buf: Knox 2pass from Allen (Bass kick), 2:30.

TEAM STATS	BUF	NE
First downs	28	20
Total net yards	428	288
Rushes-yards	28-114	27-149
Passing	314	139
Punt returns	3-34	0-0
Kickoff returns	2-49	1-17
Interceptions ret.	2-22	0-0
Comp-att-int	30-47-0	14-32-2
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	1-6
Punts	0-0.0	3-52.667
Fumbles-lost	0-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	5-45	3-30
Time of possession	35:09	24:41

RUSHING: Buffalo, Allen 12-64, Singletary 12-39, Moss 3-12, McKenzie 1-(minus 1). New England, Harris 18-103, M.Jones 6-33, Olszewski 1-9, Bolden 2-4.
PASSING: Buffalo, Allen 30-47-0-314. New England, M.Jones 14-32-2-145.
RECEIVING: Buffalo, McKenzie 11-125, Diggs 7-85, Singletary 5-39, Sanders 2-20, Knox 2-11, Kumerow 1-13, Moss 1-13, Gilliam 1-8. New England, Meyers 6-59, Bourne 2-33, Bolden 2-20, Harry 2-15, Henry 1-9, Johnson 1-9.
TACKLES-AST-SACKS: Buf, Edmunds 7-1-0, Oliver 3-1-1. NE, Bryant 8-1-0.
INTERCEPTIONS: Buffalo, Hyde 2-22.

L.A. RAMS 30, MINNESOTA 23

L.A. Rams	7	6	7	10	—	30
Minnesota	0	3	10	10	—	23

First Quarter
LAR: Michel 1run (Gay kick), 7:13.
Second Quarter
LAR: FG Gay 32, 6:37.
Min: FG Joseph 23, 2:34.
LAR: FG Gay 31, :11.
Third Quarter
Min: Mattison 2run (Joseph kick), 11:01.
LAR: Powell 61punt return (Gay kick), 7:06.
Min: FG Joseph 24, 1:31.
Fourth Quarter
LAR: Beckham 7pass from Stafford (Gay kick), 11:33.
Min: Osborn 6pass from Cousins (Joseph kick), 8:21.
LAR: FG Gay 24, 2:03.
Min: FG Joseph 44, :32.

TEAM STATS	LAR	MIN
First downs	22	19
Total net yards	356	366
Rushes-yards	33-159	22-66
Passing	197	300
Punt returns	2-75	0-0
Kickoff returns	0-0	3-16
Interceptions ret.	1-19	3-26
Comp-att-int	21-37-3	27-39-1
Sacked-yards lost	0-0	2-15
Punts	2-54.0	5-45.2
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	1-5	2-20
Time of possession	30:00	30:00

RUSHING: L.A. Rams, Michel 27-131, Henderson 1-17, Stafford 3-8, Kupp 1-4, Funk 1-(minus 1). Minnesota, Mattison 13-41, Cousins 4-17, Nwangwu 5-8.
PASSING: L.A. Rams, Stafford 21-37-3-197. Minnesota, Cousins 27-39-1-315.
RECEIVING: L.A. Rams, Kupp 10-109, Higbee 5-41, Beckham 4-37, Jefferson 1-6, Michel 1-4. Minnesota, Jefferson 8-116, Osborn 5-68, Conklin 4-44, Thielen 3-40, Mattison 3-29, Ham 2-13, Nwangwu 2-5.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: L.A. Rams, Ramsey 6-1-0, Donald 5-0-1, Gaines 2-0-1. Minnesota, H.Smith 7-2-0.
INTERCEPTIONS: L.A. Rams, Howard 1-19. Minnesota, Barr 2-11, Woods 1-15.

PHILADELPHIA 34, N.Y. GIANTS 10

N.Y. Giants	0	3	0	7	—	10
Philadelphia	0	3	17	14	—	34

Second Quarter
NYG: FG Gano 54, 11:41.
Phi: FG Elliott 22, 1:57.
Third Quarter
Phi: B.Scott 3run (Elliott kick), 12:08.
Phi: FG Elliott 37, 7:48.
Phi: D.Smith 4pass from Hurts (Elliott kick), 4:07.
Fourth Quarter
Phi: L.Johnson 5pass from Hurts (Elliott kick), 11:48.
Phi: Singleton 29interception return (Elliott kick), 10:29.
NYG: Engram 9pass from Glennon (Gano kick), 4:01.

TEAM STATS	NYG	PHI
First downs	16	17
Total net yards	207	324
Rushes-yards	27-84	30-130
Passing	123	194
Punt returns	2-16	4-50
Kickoff returns	2-38	2-30
Interceptions ret.	0-0	2-53
Comp-att-int	23-44-2	17-29-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-10	1-5
Punts	8-36.75	4-42.5
Fumbles-lost	1-0	2-0
Penalties-yards	6-40	10-65
Time of possession	30:15	30:39

RUSHING: N.Y. Giants, Barkley 15-32, Booker 6-27, Fromm 3-12, Glennon 2-11, Penny 1-2. Philadelphia, Sanders 7-45, B.Scott 12-41, Howard 9-37, Hurts 2-7.
PASSING: N.Y. Giants, Glennon 17-27-1-108, Fromm 6-17-1-25. Philadelphia, Hurts 17-29-0-199.
RECEIVING: N.Y. Giants, Toney 4-43, Booker 4-19, Penny 4-18, Engram 4-17, Golladay 3-22, Slayton 1-7, Myarick 1-6, Sills 1-5, Barkley 1-(minus 4). Philadelphia, Smith 5-80, Watkins 3-43, Goedert 2-28, Howard 2-19, Reagor 2-15, Gainwell 1-6, L.Johnson 1-5, Sanders 1-3.
TACKLES-ASSISTS-SACKS: NYG, Love 6-0-0, Carter 2-1-1. Phi, Singleton 9-2-0, Sweat 2-2-1, M.Williams 2-0-1.
INTERCEPTIONS: Philadelphia, Singleton 1-29, McLeod 1-24.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Phi, Elliott 41.

KANSAS CITY 36, PITTSBURGH 10

Pittsburgh	0	0	3	7	—	10
Kansas City	14	9	7	6	—	36

First Quarter
KC: Edwards-Helaire 1 run (Fry kick), 4:07.
KC: Pringle 5pass from Mahomes (Fry kick), 1:05.
Second Quarter
KC: FG Fry 44, 8:45.
KC: Hardman 8pass from Mahomes (kick failed), 2:13.
Third Quarter
KC: Pringle 16pass from Mahomes (Fry kick), 8:53.
Pit: FG Boswell 34, 3:34.
Fourth Quarter
KC: FG Fry 34, 11:57.
KC: FG Fry 30, 9:41.
Pit: D.Johnson 15pass from Roethlisberger (Boswell kick), 2:54.

TEAM STATS	PIT	KC
First downs	20	25
Total net yards	303	381
Rushes-yards	25-130	35-127
Passing	173	254
Punt returns	1-20	1-18
Kickoff returns	3-61	1-20
Interceptions ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-att-int	28-43-1	23-30-0
Sacked-yards lost	2-21	2-4
Punts	2-60.5	2-45.5
Fumbles-lost	2-2	3-0
Penalties-yards	5-40	5-41
Time of possession	25:18	34:42

RUSHING: Pit, Harris 19-93, Snell 5-20, Rudolph 1-17. KC, Williams 11-55, Gore 12-43, Edwards-Helaire 9-27, Burton 1-2, Henne 2-0.
PASSING: Pittsburgh, Roethlisberger 23-35-1-159, Rudolph 5-8-0-35. Kansas City, Mahomes 23-30-0-258.
RECEIVING: Pittsburgh, D.Johnson 6-51, Harris 5-17, Claypool 4-41, Gentry 4-31, McCloud 4-25, White 3-16, Rader 1-7, Snell 1-6. Kansas City, Pringle 6-75, Gore 3-61, Hardman 3-31, Williams 3-30, Hill 2-19, Robinson 2-15, Gray 2-12, Bell 1-11, Edwards-Helaire 1-4.
MISSED FIELD GOALS: Pittsburgh, Boswell 36. Kansas City, Fry 39.

CHICAGO 25, SEATTLE 24

Chicago	0	7	7	11	—	25
Seattle	7	10	7	0	—	24

First Quarter
Sea: Metcalf 41pass from Wilson (Myers kick), 9:00.
Second Quarter
**Ch

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday: at Xavier, 7 p.m., FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Friday: at DePaul, 2 p.m., SNY

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UP NEXT

Patriots: Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: at Bears, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Buccaneers, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Xavier, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Butler (XL), Saturday, 4 p.m.; at Seton Hall, Jan. 8, noon
UConn WBB: Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at DePaul, Friday, 2 p.m.; at Georgetown, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Timberwolves, Monday, 8 p.m.; Clippers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Suns, Friday, 1 p.m.
Knicks: at Timberwolves, Tuesday, 8 p.m.; at Pistons, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Thunder, Friday, 8 p.m.
Nets: at Clippers, Monday, 10:30 p.m.; 76ers, Thursday, 7 p.m.; Clippers, Saturday, 7:30 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Sunday, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: at Senators, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Sabres, Saturday, 1 p.m.; at Red Wings, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Rangers: at Panthers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Friday, 7 p.m.; Lightning, Sunday, 12:30 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Bridgeport, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Friday, 3 p.m.; Rochester, Sunday, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO

BASKETBALL
7:30 p.m.: Bulls at Hawks. (Live) NBA
8 p.m.: Celtics at Timberwolves. (Live) NBCSB
10:30 p.m.: Nets at Clippers. (Live) NBA YES
FOOTBALL
11 a.m.: Quick Lane Bowl Western Michigan vs Nevada. (Live) ESPN
8 p.m.: Dolphins at Saints. (Live) ESPN
HOCKEY
2 p.m.: IIHF World Junior Championship Austria vs Finland. (Live) NHL
4:30 p.m.: IIHF World Junior Championship Russia vs Switzerland. (Live) NHL
7 p.m.: IIHF World Junior Championship Germany vs Czech Republic. (Live) NHL
9:30 p.m.: IIHF World Junior Championship Sweden vs Slovakia. (Live) NHL
SOCCER
3 p.m.: Premier League Newcastle United vs Manchester United. (Live) USA

NETS 122, LAKERS 115 (LATE SATURDAY)

Claxton's alley-oop over LeBron puts a bow on Nets' Christmas victory

By Kristian Winfield
New York Daily News

LOS ANGELES — Short-handed and on the verge of a crushing fourth-quarter collapse, the Brooklyn Nets went right at Lakers star LeBron James to pull out the 122-115 victory Saturday night.

The Lakers were rolling, and the Nets couldn't stop them.

With under a minute to go in the fourth quarter of the Nets' Christmas Day matchup in Los Angeles, a Malik Monk layup erased what remained of Brooklyn's once 22-point lead to tie the score at 115 apiece.

Timeout, Steve Nash. The Lakers were on an extended 31-8 run, and something had to give.

So the Nets' coach went to the drawing board and called what would be the gutsiest play of a signature victory against a championship contender: an alley-oop from James Harden to Nic Claxton, flushed right on top of LeBron James' head.

A play Harden tried to make earlier in the quarter that finally connected with the game on the line.

"It was open," Harden said after hanging a 36-point triple-double in his first game since Dec. 14. "I threw that same pass probably four or five possessions earlier and LeBron deflected it."

Claxton brought the hammer, just like the Nets planned. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**

This time, Harden inbounded the ball to Mills, who had just come off a Claxton screen to shake free at the top of the key. Mills gave the ball right back to Harden, then screened Harden's man, just as Claxton slipped from top of the key down to the basket.

That left just Carmelo Anthony to guard Harden, who blew from the top of the key down to the free-throw line, and just LeBron James under the basket as the Lakers' last line of defense against a rolling Claxton.

While James had already broken up a Harden-to-Claxton lob attempt, the Beard is one of the NBA's brightest offensive minds and figured out a way to get the ball to his athletic center: Get the ball into the air.

"(I) think James saw LeBron rotating early and knew he had to throw it higher," Nash said. "I think there were a couple earlier where we couldn't get it, but on that one, he threw it in a place LeBron couldn't get it, and Nic got it, and that was a tremendous finish and an incredible pass."

Harden lobbed an alley-oop high enough for only the 23-year-old Claxton to elevate and stretch-out to grab. James met Claxton chest-to-chest, but the Nets' center flushed it with two hands on top of LeBron's outstretched arm. It was one of the few times the King has looked like a mere mortal in his Hall of Fame career.

Claxton even drew a foul on the play and knocked down the extra free throw to give the Nets a three-point lead. The play, for all intents and purposes, sealed the Nets' victory.

"It was huge," said Bruce Brown. "They had momentum. They were scoring, we weren't scoring as much ... and we needed that, and he hit the free throw, which was huge for us, too, to put us up three."

Patriots

from Page 1

ing just 14 of 32 passes for 145 yards with two interceptions.

"We just need to execute better. It really just wasn't our day," Jones said. "There's no excuses."

Buffalo quickly faced third down on its next series before Allen hooked up with McKenzie for 15 yards along the sideline. The Patriots forced a fourth-and-1 on their 34, but Allen was able to get outside for 8 yards.

The Bills were staring at third-and-10 with under four minutes to play when Allen came through again, this time creating space before flicking a pass to Diggs for 19 yards. Two plays later, Allen tossed a 2-yard touchdown pass to tight end Dawson Knox.

In Week 13, the Patriots dominated on the ground, grinding out 200-plus yards in their 14-10 win on a cold, wet and windy night. Jones attempted only three passes in that first meeting, but got there in just two drives Sunday.

The Pats' changed strategy allowed Buffalo more cracks at Jones, and the Bills took advantage, tipping and intercepting a second-quarter pass in Buffalo territory.

The Bills nearly squandered an opportunity to pad their lead on their opening drive of the third quarter when Allen overthrew a wide-open Jake Kumerow in the end zone. After a pair of penalties, the Bills settled for a 34-yard Tyler Bass field goal that made it 20-7. New England trimmed the gap to 20-14 on its ensuing possession when Harris scored on a 1-yard run to cap a 14-play, 75-yard drive.

Harris finished with 103 rushing yards and three touchdowns.

"It's too late in the season not to be playing your best football," Patriots safety Devin McCourty said. "It didn't feel like we really did anything well enough."

Allen became the first player in Bills history to eclipse 4,000 yards passing in back-to-back seasons.

Injury report

Bills: Left guard Ike Boettger was carted off the field at the 10:05 mark of the second quarter with a ruptured Achilles tendon. ... RB Devin Singletary injured an ankle on the Bills' first drive the third quarter but was able to return. ... Starting right guard Jon Feliciano wasn't cleared from COVID-19 list in time to play Sunday.

Patriots: DL Daniel Ekuale left just before halftime with an undisclosed issue but returned in the second half.

Giants

from Page 1

"East Texas," a nod to Johnson's and Hurts' roots. All that was needed for it to work was for the right tackle to break free at the goal line.

The lineman easily caught the Giants off guard and was all alone for Hurts to throw the easy touchdown. Lane high-stepped his way through the end zone and tried to leap into the arms of delirious Eagles fans.

"I'm just glad I didn't drop it," Johnson said.

Johnson and Hurts exchanged jerseys after the game for a keepsake.

"We exchanged jerseys after because I never threw a touchdown to an offensive tackle," Hurts said. "But he's a freak athlete. He gave me his jersey and wrote on there: 'When I caught that ball, I didn't know what to think. All I could think was, what y'all know about them Texan boys."

Hurts shook off a dismal first half and threw for 199 yards and two touchdowns to push the Eagles over .500 for the first time since they won the season opener.

Glennon, taking over after Fromm was benched in his first NFL start, had a pass picked off by Singleton and returned 29 yards for the score. The rout was on in Philly.

Fromm's first pass of the second half was intercepted by safety Rodney McLeod, and Boston Scott punched in a 3-yard touchdown for a 10-3 lead. Hurts also hit DeVonta Smith for a 4-yard touchdown in the second half in an odd sequence that saw replay overturn the call, only for another call for replay that restored the score.

Fromm got the start with the Giants (4-11) having few options after Daniel Jones was shut down for the season because of a sprained neck. Fromm's passer rating was just 19.5 for the game.

The first half was played by both teams as if it had the importance of a meaningless preseason finale: dropped passes, fumbles, a missed field goal. Hurts and Fromm combined for a 5 for 17 first quarter — each with an identical 39.6 QB rating.

Fromm only threw for 18 yards in the half. Glennon tossed a touchdown late in the game.

"I wish I would have gone out and handled my business and led us to victory," Fromm said.

The usually steady Jake Elliott snapped a streak of 17 straight field goals when he missed a 41-yarder. The Giants' Graham Gano kicked a 54-yarder — only 22 yards shy of New York's total first-half offensive output — and Elliott kicked a 22-yarder to send the game into halftime tied 3-all.

Elliott later added a 37-yard field goal for a 13-3 lead.

"Another week where we came out and didn't execute like we wanted to, but I've always admired the grit and perseverance of this team," Hurts said. "We have so much character in how we do things, how we operate, how we're able to overcome."

Jets

from Page 1

"It was the longest touchdown run probably in my whole life, too," Wilson said.

He was also 14 of 22 for 102 yards passing, including a TD throw to backup offensive lineman Conor McDermott.

"That was probably the highlight of my entire life so far, that touchdown pass," a smiling Wilson said.

Braxton Berrios returned a kickoff 102 yards for a touchdown, and Michael Carter ran for 118 yards on 16 carries for New York.

The silver lining for the Jaguars in defeat: They created some space between themselves and the Jets for next year's No. 1 draft pick.

"Even though we lost, I definitely feel the momentum is going in the right direction," Jacksonville cornerback Shaquill Griffin said.

Lawrence, the top selection in April, was 26 of 39 for 280 yards for the Jaguars, who lost top running back James Robinson to a torn Achilles tendon early in the game.

"What was different about this one was ... so close," Lawrence said. "We're 2 yards away. Obviously, we didn't execute cleanly there at the end."

Both teams lost key defensive players a few hours before kickoff: Jacksonville linebacker Myles Jack and Jets defensive lineman Quinnen Williams went on the COVID-19 list.

With the Jets leading 16-15 in the fourth quarter, Wilson marched New York downfield with a run-heavy drive to get to the 1 after a 2-yard catch by Carter.

Jets quarterback Zach Wilson rushes 52 yards for a touchdown in the first quarter of Sunday's victory over the Jaguars. **ADAM HUNGER/AP**

On fourth down, New York went for it, and Wilson found McDermott, a tackle eligible, for a touchdown to put the Jets up 23-15 with 9:16 left. McDermott reached up and leaped — looking very much like a tight end, which he played in high school — to come down with the ball.

Dare Ogunbowale, in for the injured Robinson, answered with a 1-yard touchdown run with 5:25 remaining. But Lawrence's throw on a 2-point try fell incomplete.

After Matthew Wright's 21-yard field goal put Jacksonville up 3-0, Wilson put the Jets ahead with his record-setting run late in the first quarter. He rolled to his right to escape a sack, zipped down the right sideline, stayed inbounds doing a tightrope walk near the Jaguars 25 before diving into the end zone.

Pineiro, in his third game with the Jets after two other kickers struggled, had his extra-point try blocked by Adam Gotsis.

Lawrence marched the Jaguars right back downfield, finding Laquon Treadwell for 20 yards on fourth-and-1. Four plays later, Lawrence ran a keeper from the 3, but had the ball knocked out of his hands by Jason Pinnock. Offensive lineman Will Richardson recovered in the end zone, putting Jacksonville back ahead.

According to Elias Sports Bureau records dating to 1950, it was the first time multiple offensive linemen scored TDs in the same game.

The Jaguars went for 2 after a penalty by the Jets on the extra point, but Ogubowale's run was stopped, making it 9-6.

Berrios fielded the ensuing kickoff in the end zone and ran it all the way back for a 13-9 lead. It was New York's first kickoff return for a touchdown since Andre Roberts against Green Bay in 2018.

Safety Tip of the Day

Using a fireplace or gas heater can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning. Ensure your safety by checking the batteries on your carbon monoxide detector - changing them at least annually.

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Tampa Bay	30	20	6	4	44	98	80
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101
Montreal	31	7	21	3	17	67	109
METRO.	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Carolina	29	21	7	1	43	95	62
Washington	31	18	6	7	43	108	81
N.Y. Rangers	30	19	7	4	42	86	77
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76
Columbus	28	14	13	1	29	91	95
Philadelphia	29	12	12	5	29	77	95
New Jersey	30	10	15	5	25	82	105
N.Y. Islanders	26	8	12	6	22	57	77

WESTERN CONFERENCE

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109
PACIFIC	**GP**	**W**	**L**	**OT**	**PTS**	**GF**	**GA**
Vegas	32	20	12	0	40	114	98
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
No games scheduled

MONDAY'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Boston, ppd.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, ppd.
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, ppd.
Ottawa at Washington, ppd.
Florida at Carolina, ppd.
Toronto at Columbus, ppd.
New Jersey at St. Louis, ppd.
Nashville at Dallas, ppd.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, ppd.
Los Angeles at Arizona, ppd.
Edmonton at Calgary, ppd.
Seattle at Vancouver, ppd.
Colorado at Vegas, ppd.
San Jose at Anaheim, ppd.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Montreal at Tampa Bay, 7p.m.
Columbus at Chicago, 7:30p.m.
Vegas at Los Angeles, 9:30p.m.
Arizona at San Jose, 10:30p.m.

All-Star Weekend: Feb. 4-5, 2022
Trade Deadline: March 21.
Stanley Cup Playoffs: May 2-June 30.

SEASON GOALIE LEADERS

WINS	W	TM	L	OL
Andrei Vasilevskiy	17	TBL	4	3
Frederik Andersen	16	CAR	5	0
Jack Campbell	15	TOR	5	2
Tristan Jarry	15	PIT	5	4
Juuse Saros	15	NSH	8	1
Cam Talbot	15	MIN	7	1
Robin Lehner	14	VEG	9	0
Thatcher Demko	13	VAN	11	1
Darcy Kuemper	13	COL	5	0
Igor Shesterkin	13	NYR	3	2
Sergei Bobrovsky	12	FLA	3	2
Mikko Koskinen	12	EDM	6	0

TOTAL SAVES	SV	TM	SV%
Thatcher Demko	733	VAN	.919
Cam Talbot	688	MIN	.914
Connor Hellebuyck	683	WPG	.916
Andrei Vasilevskiy	671	TBL	.928
Robin Lehner	668	VEG	.905
John Gibson	657	ANA	.913
Tristan Jarry	647	PIT	.932
Jack Campbell	638	TOR	.937
Juuse Saros	636	NSH	.924
Jake Allen	632	MTL	.903

GAA	GAA	TM	GP	GA
Frederik Andersen	1.93	CAR	21	40
Tristan Jarry	1.93	PIT	24	47
Jack Campbell	1.94	TOR	23	43
Jacob Markstrom	1.94	CGY	21	41
James Reimer	1.99	SJS	16	30
Igor Shesterkin	2.05	NYR	18	35
Andrei Vasilevskiy	2.14	TBL	24	52
Jonathan Quick	2.19	LAK	18	40
Juuse Saros	2.22	NSH	24	52
Sergei Bobrovsky	2.47	FLA	19	44
Ilya Sorokin	2.49	NYI	19	46
Vitek Vanecek	2.51	WSH	16	38
Thatcher Demko	2.63	VAN	25	65
Ilya Samsonov	2.64	WSH	16	40
Connor Hellebuyck	2.69	WPG	24	63
John Gibson	2.71	ANA	23	63
Carter Hart	2.74	PHI	19	51
Darcy Kuemper	2.77	COL	19	50
Alex Nedeljkovic	2.78	DET	21	54

through Wednesday
minimum 16 games played

ODDS

COLLEGE BASKETBALL		MONDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**
at Syracuse	9½	Brown

NBA			MONDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
at Charlotte	off	(off)	Houston
at Atlanta	off	(off)	Chicago
at Minnesota	off	(off)	Boston
at San Antonio	off	(off)	Utah
at Phoenix	off	(off)	Memphis
at Portland	off	(off)	Dallas
at LA Clippers	off	(off)	Brooklyn

NHL			TUESDAY
FAVORITE	**LINE**	**UNDERDOG**	**odds**
at Tampa Bay	-250	Montreal	+236
at Chicago	-30	Columbus	+120
at San Jose	-227	Arizona	+215
Vegas	-145	at Los Angeles	+235

COLLEGE FOOTBALL			MONDAY
Quick Lane Bowl			
W Michigan	6	(56)	Nevada
Birmingham Bowl			**Tuesday**
Auburn	2½	(51½)	Houston
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl			
Louisville	1½	(55½)	Air Force
Liberty Bowl			
Mississippi St.	9	(59½)	Texas Tech
Holiday Bowl			
NC State	1	(60)	UCLA
Guaranteed Rate Bowl			
Minnesota	4	(45)	West Virginia
Pinstripe Bowl			**Wednesday**
Maryland	3	(55)	Virginia Tech
Cheez-It Bowl			
Clemson	1	(44)	Iowa State
Alamo Bowl			
Oklahoma	4½	(61½)	Oregon
Duke's Mayo Bowl			**Thursday**
North Carolina	9	(58½)	South Carolina
Music City Bowl			
Tennessee	4½	(63)	Purdue
Peach Bowl			
Michigan State	2½	(57)	Pittsburgh
Las Vegas Bowl			
Wisconsin	7	(42)	Arizona State
Sun Bowl			**Friday**
Miami	2½	(59)	Wash. St.
Gator Bowl			
Wake Forest	14½	57	Rutgers
Arizona Bowl			
Boise State	8	(55½)	C. Michigan
CFP Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic			
Alabama	13½	(58)	Cincinnati
CFP Semifinal Orange Bowl			
Georgia	8	(47)	Michigan
Outback Bowl			**Saturday**
Penn State	2	(47)	Arkansas
Fiesta Bowl			
Notre Dame	2	(45½)	Oklahoma St.
Citrus Bowl			
Kentucky	2½	(44)	Iowa
Rose Bowl			
Ohio State	6½	(66)	Utah
Sugar Bowl			
Baylor	E	(55)	Mississippi
Texas Bowl			**Tuesday, Jan. 4**
Kansas State	2½	(47)	LSU

NFL WEEK 16			MONDAY
FAVORITE	**SPY**	**O/U**	**UNDERDOG**
Miami	3	(36½)	at New Orleans

For the latest odds, go to FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	22	9	.710	—
Philadelphia	17	16	.515	6
Boston	16	17	.485	7
Toronto	14	16	.467	7 ½
New York	15	18	.455	8
SOUTHEAST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Miami	21	13	.618	—
Washington	17	16	.515	3 ½
Charlotte	17	17	.500	4
Atlanta	15	17	.469	5
Orlando	7	27	.206	14
CENTRAL	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Chicago	19	10	.655	—
Milwaukee	22	13	.629	—
Cleveland	20	13	.606	1
Indiana	14	19	.424	7
Detroit	5	26	.161	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	20	14	.588	—
Dallas	15	17	.469	4
San Antonio	13	18	.419	5 ½
New Orleans	12	21	.364	7 ½
Houston	10	23	.303	9 ½
NORTHWEST	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Utah	23	9	.719	—
Denver	15	16	.484	7 ½
Minnesota	15	17	.469	8
Portland	13	19	.406	10
Oklahoma City	11	20	.355	11 ½
PACIFIC	**W**	**L**	**PCT**	**GB**
Golden State	27	6	.818	—
Phoenix	26	6	.813	½
L.A. Clippers	17	15	.531	9 ½
L.A. Lakers	16	18	.471	11 ½
Sacramento	13	21	.382	14 ½

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Miami 93, Orlando 83
Cleveland 144, Toronto 99
Memphis 127, Sacramento 102
Philadelphia 117, Washington 96
Detroit at San Antonio, late
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, late
Indiana at Chicago, late
Denver at L.A. Clippers, late

MONDAY'S GAMES
Houston at Charlotte, 7p.m.
Chicago at Atlanta, 7:30p.m.
Boston at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Utah at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Memphis at Phoenix, 9p.m.
Dallas at Portland, 10p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Clippers, 10:30p.m.

TUESDAY'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Orlando, 7p.m.
Philadelphia at Toronto, 7:30p.m.
Washington at Miami, 7:30p.m.
Cleveland at New Orleans, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 8p.m.
New York at Minnesota, 8p.m.
Denver at Golden State, 10p.m.
Oklahoma City at Sacramento, 10p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Charlotte at Indiana, 7p.m.
New York at Detroit, 7p.m.
L.A. Clippers at Boston, 7:30p.m.
Atlanta at Chicago, 8p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 8p.m.
Miami at San Antonio, 8:30p.m.
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, 9p.m.
Utah at Portland, 10p.m.
Dallas at Sacramento, 10:30p.m.

SATURDAY'S RESULTS
New York 101, Atlanta 87
Milwaukee 117, Boston 113
Golden State 116, Phoenix 107
Brooklyn 122, L.A. Lakers 115
Utah 120, Dallas 116

NBA ON CHRISTMAS DAY: CAREER ALL-TIME POINTS

PLAYER	PTS	GP	PPG
1. LeBron James	422	*16	26.4
2. Kobe Bryant	395	16	24.7
3. Oscar Robertson	377	12	31.4
4. Dwyane Wade	314	13	24.2
5. Kevin Durant	299	*10	29.9

source: nba.com

SEASON THREE-POINT ATTEMPTS

TEAM	G	3P	3PA	PTS
Milwaukee	35	492	1378	3866
Utah	32	498	1353	3711
Minnesota	32	460	1344	3481
Golden State	33	493	1342	3684
Charlotte	34	484	1283	3907
Houston	33	425	1243	3523
New York	33	447	1232	3499
Orlando	33	395	1221	3350
Dallas	32	395	1216	3353
Portland	32	425	1204	3460
Boston	33	407	1198	3581
Miami	33	438	1187	3546
Indiana	33	377	1163	3561
Oklahoma City	31	357	1163	3087
Sacramento	33	386	1148	3636
L.A. Lakers	34	394	1147	3739
Denver	31	393	1133	3298
Memphis	33	391	1127	3648
L.A. Clippers	32	404	1127	3377
Cleveland	32	396	1113	3418
Detroit	31	346	1107	3114
New Orleans	33	366	1070	3457
Atlanta	32	391	1038	3516
Brooklyn	31	361	1014	3413
Philadelphia	32	348	1011	3372
Phoenix	32	369	1010	3574
Toronto	29	338	984	3085
Washington	32	320	980	3397
San Antonio	31	333	932	3433
Chicago	29	323	871	3171

PLAYER	TM	3PA	3P
Stephen Curry	GS	419	167
Buddy Hield	Sac	333	124
Donovan Mitchell	UTA	291	98
Jayson Tatum	BOS	280	92
Duncan Robinson	MIA	277	94
Jordan Clarkson	UTA	271	83
Malik Beasley	MIN	270	94
Kelly Oubre	CHO	261	98
Damian Lillard	POR	254	83
Devonte' Graham	NOP	250	92
Reggie Jackson	LAC	246	81
Anthony Edwards	MIN	242	87
Fred VanVleet	TOR	239	95
D'Angelo Russell	MIN	236	79
Patty Mills	BRK	234	103
Grayson Allen	MIL	226	91
Evan Fournier	NYK	226	83
Luguentz Dort	OKC	225	75
Tim Hardaway	DAL	220	73
Jordan Poole	GSW	219	74
Desmond Bane	MEM	218	90
Paul George	LAC	217	70
N. Alexander-Walker	NOP	216	69
Pat Connaughton	MIL	216	88
Lonzo Ball	CHI	215	90

SEASON LEADERS

PTS/GAMES	G	FG	FT	PTS	PPGA
Durant, BKN	27	291	171	803	29.7
Curry, GS	31	280	137	864	27.9
Anttokoupo, MIL	27	261	189	739	27.4
Young, ATL	29	275	163	791	27.3
DeRozan, CHI	26	249	179	697	26.8
LaVine, CHI	27	257	110	703	26.0
Jokic, DEN	26	266	99	673	25.9
Tatum, BOS	33	295	163	845	25.6
Mitchell, UTA	31	290	109	787	25.4
George, LAC	26	234	103	641	24.7
Towns, MIN	30	259	144	734	24.5
Ingram, NO	26	229	116	619	23.8

FIELD GOAL PCT.	FG	FGA	PCT
Gobert, UTA	174	244	.713
Holmes, SAC	132	187	.706
Allen, CLE	191	272	.702
McGee, PHO	144	219	.658
Harrell, WAS	176	272	.647

REBOUNDS	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Gobert, UTA	32	109	369	478	14.9
Jokic, DEN	26	63	288	351	13.5
Capela, ATL	30	119	261	380	12.7
Valanciunas, NO	32	114	271	385	12.0
Sabonis, IND	32	102	269	371	11.6
Anttkmpo, MIL	27	56	257	313	11.6
Ayton, PHO	24	70	197	267	11.1
Wood, HOU	31	61	277	338	10.9
Allen, CLE	28	91	211	302	10.8
Vucevic, CHI	22	38	191	229	10.4

ASSISTS	G	AST	AVG
Paul, PHO	32	316	9.9
Harden, BKN	27	260	9.6
Young, ATL	29	269	9.3
Murray, SA	31	272	8.8
Lowry, MIA	31	255	8.2

through Saturday

OLLEGE FOOTBALL

UPCOMING BOWLS

MONDAY'S GAMES
Quick Lane Bowl
Nevada (8-4) vs. W. Mich. (7-5), 11a.m.
Military Bowl, Annapolis, Md.
Bos Coll. (6-6) vs. E. Carolina (7-5), ccd.

TUESDAY,'S GAMES
Birmingham Bowl, Birmingham, Ala.
#21 Houston (11-2) vs. Auburn (6-6), noon
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl, Dallas
Air Force (9-3) vs. Louisville (6-6), 3:15 p.m.
Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tenn.
Miss St. (7-5) vs. TX Tech (6-6), 6:45p.m.
Holiday Bowl, San Diego
UCLA (8-4) vs. NC State (9-3), 8p.m.
Guaranteed Rate Bowl, Phoenix
Minnesota (8-4) vs. W. Va (6-6), 10:15 p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Fenway Bowl, Boston
Virginia (6-6) vs. SMU (8-4), ccd
Pinstripe Bowl, New York City
Va. Tech (6-6) vs. Maryland (6-6), 2:15 p.m.
Cheez-It Bowl, Orlando, Fla.
#19 Clemson (9-3) vs. Iowa St. (7-5), 5:45 p.m.
Alamo Bowl, San Antonio
#14 Okla. (10-2) vs. #15 Oregon (10-3), 9:15 a.m.

THURSDAY'GAMES
Duke's Mayo Bowl, Charlotte, N.C.
S. Carolina (6-6) vs. N. Carolina (6-6), 11:30 a.m.
Music City Bowl, Nashville
Purdue (8-4) vs. Tennessee (7-5), 3p.m.
Peach Bowl, Atlanta
#11 Mich St. (10-2) vs. #13 Pitt (11-2), 7 p.m.
Las Vegas Bowl, Las Vegas
Wisconsin (8-4) vs. Arizona St. (8-4), 10:30 p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
College Football Playoff Semifinal (Orange Bowl), Miami Gardens, Fla.
#2 Michigan (12-1) vs.
#3 Georgia (12-1), 7:30 p.m.
College Football Playoff Semifinal (Cotton Bowl Classic), Arlington, Texas
#1Alabama (12-1) vs.
#4Cincinnati (13-0), 7:30p.m.
Gator Bowl, Jacksonville, Fla.
#20Wake Forest (10-3) vs.
Rutgers (5-7), 10a.m.
Sun Bowl, El Paso, Texas
Wash. St. (7-5) vs. Miami (7-5), noon
Arizona Bowl, Tucson, Ariz.
C. Mich. (8-4) vs. Boise St. (7-5), 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, JAN. 1
Outback Bowl, Tampa, Fla.
#22 Arkansas (8-4) vs. Penn St. (7-5), noon
Citrus Bowl, Orlando, Fla.
#17 Iowa (10-3) vs. #25 Kentucky (9-3), 1 p.m.
Fiesta Bowl, Glendale, Ariz.
#5Notre Dame (11-1) vs.
#9Oklahoma St. (11-2), 1p.m.
Rose Bowl, Pasadena, Calif.
#7 Ohio St. (10-2) vs. #10 Utah (10-3), 5 p.m.
Sugar Bowl, New Orleans
#6 Baylor (11-2) vs. #8 Miss. (10-2), 8:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, JAN. 4
Texas Bowl, Houston
LSU (6-6) vs. Kansas St. (7-5), 9p.m.

MONDAY, JAN. 8
CFP Championship Game, Indianapolis
Semifinal winners, 8p.m.

PAST BOWL RESULTS

FRIDAY, DEC. 17
Bahamas BowlNassau, Bahamas
Middle Tennessee 31, Toledo 24
Cure Bowl, Orlando, Fla.
Coastal Carolina 47, Northern Illinois 41

SATURDAY, DEC. 18
Boca Raton Bowl, Boca Raton, Fla.
W. Kentucky 59, Appalahican St. 38
Celebration Bowl, Atlanta
S. Carolina St. 31, Jackson St. 10
New Mexico Bowl, Albuquerque
Fresno State 31, UTEP 24
Independence Bowl, Shreveport, La.
Ala-Birmingham 31, #12BYU 28
LendingTree Bowl, Mobile, Ala.
Liberty 56, Eastern Michigan 20
LA Bowl, Inglewood, Calif.
Utah St. 24, Oregon State 13
New Orleans Bowl, New Orleans
#16 La-Lafayette 36, Marshall 21e

MONDAY, DEC. 20
Myrtle Beach Bowl, Conway, S.C.
Tulsa 30, Old Dominion 17

TUESDAY, DEC. 21
Famous Idaho Potato, Boise, Idaho
Wyoming 52, Kent State 38
Frisco Bowl, Frisco, Texas
San Diego State 38, #24 UTSA 24

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 22
Armed Forces Bowl, Fort Worth, Texas
Army 24, Missouri 22

THURSDAY, DEC. 23
Frisco Football Classic, Frisco, Texas
Miami (Ohio) 27, North Texas 14
Gasparilla Bowl, Tampa, Fla.
UCF 29, Florida 17

FRIDAY, DEC. 24
Hawaii Bowl, Honolulu
Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7), ccd.

SATURDAY, DEC. 25
Camellia Bowl, Montgomery, Ala.
Georgia St. 51, Ball State 20

NCAA FCS CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday, Jan. 8
Toyota Stadium, Frisco, Texas
North Dakota State (13-1) vs.
Montana State (12-2), noon

SOCCER

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT
Man City	19	15	2	2	50	12	47
Liverpool	18	12	5	1	50	15	41
Chelsea	19	12	5	2	42	13	41
Arsenal	19	11	2	6	32	23	35
Tottenham	16	9	2	5	21	19	29
West Ham	18	8	4	6	30	24	28
Man United	16	8	3	5	26	24	27
Wolverhampton	18	7	4	7	13	14	25
Brighton	17	5	8	4	16	17	23
Leicester	17	6	4	7	30	33	22
Aston Villa	18	7	1	10	24	28	22
Brentford	17	5	5	7	21	24	20
Crystal Palace	18	4	8	6	24	27	20
Southampton	18	4	8	6	19	28	20
Everton	17	5	4	8	21	29	19
Leeds	18	3	7	8	18	36	16
Watford	16	4	1	11	21	31	13
Burnley	15	1	8	6	14	21	11
Newcastle	18	1	7	10	18	41	10
Norwich	18	2	4	12	8	39	10

SUNDAY'S RESULTS
Man City 6, Leicester 3
Norwich 0, Arsenal 5
Tottenham 3, Crystal Palace 0
West Ham 2, Southampton 3
Aston Villa 1, Chelsea 3
Brighton 2, Brentford 0
Liverpool vs. Leeds, ppd
Wolverhampton vs. Watford, ppd
Burnley vs. Everton, ppd

MONDAY'S MATCH
Newcastle vs. Man United, 3p.m.

TUESDAY'S MATCHES
Crystal Palace vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Southampton vs. Tottenham, 10a.m.
Watford vs. West Ham, 10a.m.
Leicester vs. Liverpool, 3p.m.
Arsenal vs. Wolverhampton, 7:30 a.m. ppd
Leeds vs. Aston Villa, 12:30p.m. ppd

WEDNESDAY'S MATCHES
Chelsea vs. Brighton, 2:30p.m.
Brentford vs. Man City, 3:15p.m.

THURSDAY'S MATCHES
Everton vs. Newcastle, 2:30p.m.
Man United vs. Burnley, 3:15p.m.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Arsenal vs. Man City, 7:30a.m.
Leicester vs. Norwich, 10a.m.
Watford vs. Tottenham, 10a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. West Ham, 12:30p.m.

SUNDAY, JAN. 2
Brentford vs. Aston Villa, 9a.m.
Everton vs. Brighton, 9a.m.
Leeds vs. Burnley, 9a.m.
Southampton vs. Newcastle, 9a.m.
Chelsea vs. Liverpool, 11:30a.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

No. 1 Baylor (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Northwestern St., Tuesday.
No. 2 Duke (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Clemson, Wednesday.
No. 3 Purdue (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Nicholls, Wednesday.
No. 4 Gonzaga (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. N. Alabama, Tuesday.
No. 5 UCLA (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 6 Arizona, Thursday.
No. 6 Arizona (11-1) did not play. Next: at No. 5 UCLA, Thursday
No. 7 Kansas (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Harvard, Wednesday.
No. 8 Southern Cal (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. Arizona St., Thursday.
No. 9 Iowa St. (12-0) did not play. Next: vs. No. 1 Baylor, Saturday, Jan. 1.
No. 10 Alabama (9-3) did not play. Next: vs. No. 19 Tennessee, Wednesday.
No. 11 Michigan St. (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. High Point, Wednesday.
No. 12 Auburn (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 17 LSU, Wednesday.
No. 13 Houston (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. Cincinnati, Tuesday.
No. 14 Ohio State (8-2) did not play. Next: vs. New Orleans, Tuesday.
No. 15 Seton Hall (9-2) did not play. Next: at No. 22 Providence, Wednesday.
No. 16 Texas (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Incarnate Word, Tuesday.
No. 17 LSU (12-0) did not play. Next: at No. 12 Auburn, Wednesday.
No. 18 Xavier (11-2) did not play. Next: vs. UConn, Tuesday.
No. 19 Tennessee (9-2) did not play. Next: at No. 10 Alabama, Wednesday.
No. 20 Kentucky (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Missouri, Wednesday.
No. 21 Colorado St. (10-0) did not play. Next: at New Mexico, Tuesday.
No. 22 Providence (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 15 Seton Hall, Wednesday.
No. 23 Villanova (8-4) did not play. Next: vs. Temple, Wednesday.
No. 24 Wisconsin (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Illinois State, Wednesday.
No. 25 Texas Tech (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Alabama State, Tuesday.

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

No. 1. South Carolina (12-0) did not play. Next: at Missouri, Thursday.
No. 2. Stanford (8-3) did not play. Next: at Washington, Friday.
No. 3. Louisville (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.
No. 4. Arizona (10-0) did not play. Next: at Southern Cal, Friday.
No. 5. NC State (11-2) did not play. Next: at Clemson, Thursday.
No. 6. Maryland (10-3) did not play. Next: at Illinois, Thursday.
No. 7. Tennessee (10-1) did not play. Next: vs. Chattanooga, Monday.
No. 8. Indiana (10-2) did not play. Next: at Rutgers, Thursday.
No. 9. Michigan (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 24 Ohio St., Friday.
No. 10. Baylor (9-2) did not play. Next: vs. Houston Baptist, Wednesday.
No. 11. UConn (6-3) did not play. Next: vs. Marquette, Wednesday.
No. 12. Texas (9-1) did not play. Next: vs. Alcorn St., Wednesday.
No. 13. Georgia (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 21 LSU, Thursday.
No. 13. Iowa St. (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. West Virginia, Sunday, Jan. 2.
No. 15. Iowa (6-3) did not play. Next: at Penn St., Thursday.
No. 16. Duke (10-1) did not play. Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
No. 17. Georgia Tech (10-2) did not play. Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
No. 18. South Florida (9-4) did not play. Next: vs. Jacksonville, Wednesday.
No. 19. BYU (10-1) did not play. Next: at San Diego, Thursday.
No. 20. Notre Dame (11-2) did not play. Next: at Virginia, Thursday.
No. 21. LSU (11-1) did not play. Next: vs. Samford, Monday.
No. 22. Kentucky (7-3) did not play. Next: at Auburn, Thursday.
No. 23. Texas A&M (10-2) did not play. Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Thursday.
No. 24. Ohio St. (9-2) did not play. Next: at No. 9 Michigan, Friday.
No. 25. North Carolina (11-0) did not play. Next: vs. Syracuse, Thursday.

TENNIS

HANA BANK KOREA OPEN

In Seoul, South Korea; indoors-hard
WOMEN'S SINGLES, CHAMPIONSHIP
Lin Zhu d. Kristina Mladenovic, 6-0, 6-4.

WTA SINGLES RANKINGS

1. Ashleigh Barty, Australia	7,582
2. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus	6,380
3. Garbine Muguruza, Spain	5,685
4. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Rep.	5,135
5. Barbora Krejcikova, Czech Rep.	5,008
6. Maria Sakkari, Greece	4,385
7. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia	4,351
8. Paula Badosa, Spain	3,849
9. Iga Swiatek, Poland	3,786
10. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia	3,455
11. Ana. Pavlyuchenkova, Russia	3,076
12. Sofia Kenin, U.S.	2,971
13. Naomi Osaka, Japan	2,956
14. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan	2,855
15. Elina Svitolina, Ukraine	2,726
16. Angelique Kerber, Germany	2,671
17. Petra Kvitova, Czech Republic	2,660
18. Jessica Pegula, U.S.	2,650
19. Emma Raducanu, Britain	2,595
20,. Simona Halep, Romania	2,576
21., Elise Mertens, Belgium	2,570
22. Coco Gauff, U.S.	2,550
23. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland	2,415
24. Leylah A. Fernandez, Canada	2,284
25. Jennifer Brady, U.S.	2,264
26. Daria Kasatkina, Russia	2,180
27. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus	2,166
28. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia	2,060
29. Danielle Collins, U.S.	2,036
30. Tamara Zidansek, Slovenia	1,876
31. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia	1,870
32. Karolina Muchova, Czech Rep	1,865
33. Camila Giorgi,

WEATHER

MONDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Thickening afternoon cloudiness. Chance for light snow and rain at night. West wind at 5 mph.

HIGH **36°** LOW **28°**

TUESDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness, chance for a shower early, not as chilly.

HIGH **47°** LOW **32°**

WEDNESDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mostly cloudy with a shower or two possible.

HIGH **44°** LOW **32°**

THURSDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mixed clouds and some sunshine, cool.

HIGH **45°** LOW **29°**

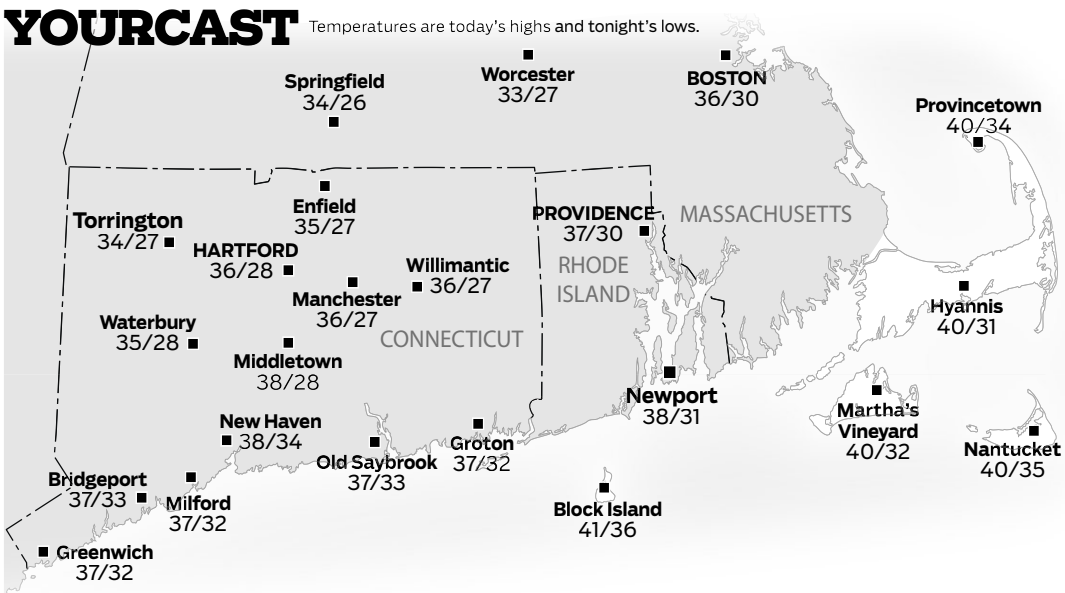
FRIDAY
SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

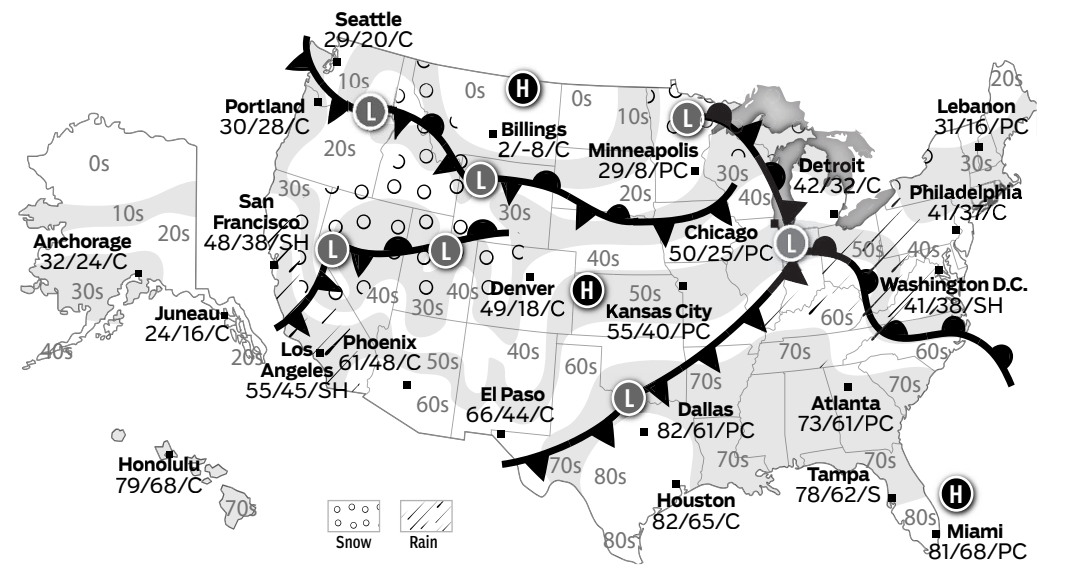
Becoming partly sunny, remaining above normal.

HIGH **44°** LOW **27°**

CONNECTICUT WEATHER
For the latest weather news throughout your day.
courant.com/weather

YOURCAST
Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.





OUTLOOK

High pressure will bring some sunshine to Connecticut Monday morning, but a warm front crossing the central Appalachians will cause thickening cloudiness this afternoon with high temperatures in the 30s. The winds will be westerly and on the light side. As the warm front gets closer overnight it will be cloudy and some light snow, rain and freezing rain are all possible. A lingering shower is possible early Tuesday, otherwise expect considerable cloudiness and milder temperatures with highs in the mid to upper 40s. It will remain above normal through Friday, maybe even Saturday.

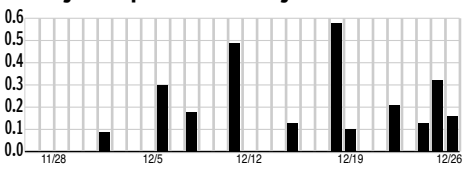
-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

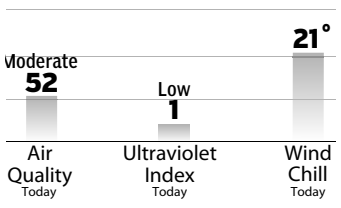
Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.16	0.13
Month to date	2.69	3.48
Total this year	54.68	46.45
Snowfall In Inches		
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	4.2	10.1

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks

30-day Precipitation History In Inches



Air Quality Forecast For Today



	Today	Tomorrow
Sunrise	7:17 a.m.	7:17 a.m.
Sunset	4:26 p.m.	4:27 p.m.
Moonrise	a.m.	1:06 a.m.
Moonset	12:14 p.m.	12:39 p.m.

Moon Phase

New	First	Full	Last
Jan 2	Jan 9	Jan 17	Jan 25

Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	3:19 a.m.	9:43 a.m.	45°
	3:23 p.m.	9:59 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	4:30 a.m.	10:36 a.m.	44°
	4:34 p.m.	10:52 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	7:13 a.m.	1:49 a.m.	
	7:17 p.m.	2:22 p.m.	
Madison	4:32 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	43°
	4:54 p.m.	11:04 p.m.	
New Haven	4:52 a.m.	11:09 a.m.	42°
	5:14 p.m.	11:28 p.m.	
Stamford	4:56 a.m.	11:23 a.m.	44°
	5:18 p.m.	11:42 p.m.	

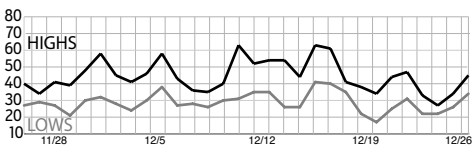
River Stage at Hartford: 4.20 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W PM Clouds	L.I. Sound E PM Clouds	B. I. Sound PM Clouds
Wind	NW, 5-10	NW, 5-15	N/NW, 10
Seas	1-2 ft.	1-2 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Sunday	45 at 1:53 p.m	34 at 4:22 a.m
Normal for date	38	22
Record for date	61 in 1982	-14 in 1980
A year ago	35	23
Range this year	99	1

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 26	1688	1993	1796

30-day Temperature History



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	29.94 at 6 p.m.	29.58 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	34° at 6 a.m.	24° at 4 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD
Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND

Bangor	33	15	PC
Burlington	28	24	PC
Caribou	27	8	PC
Concord	34	20	PC
Montpelier	26	19	PC
Mt. Wash.	23	15	PC
Portland	35	23	S
Woods Hole	37	31	PC

NATION

Albany	32	27	PC
Albuquerque	47	32	PC
Atlantic City	43	33	C
Baltimore	42	32	SH
Bismarck	4	-6	C
Boise	27	7	C
Buffalo	38	33	C
Charleston	80	58	PC
Cincinnati	66	41	C
Cleveland	46	33	C
Indianapolis	63	37	C
Jacksonville	79	53	PC
Las Vegas	52	39	C
Miami Beach	77	71	PC
Milwaukee	48	25	PC
Nashville	71	58	C
New Orleans	77	65	C
New York	41	39	PC
Okla. City	64	49	PC
Omaha	49	27	PC
Orlando	80	58	S
Pittsburgh	47	38	SH
Raleigh	62	54	C
St. Louis	69	38	PC
Salt Lake City	43	16	SF
San Antonio	83	63	PC
San Diego	56	50	C
San Juan	83	73	PC
Tucson	63	44	C

WORLD

Amsterdam	45	41	SH
Athens	64	55	C
Bangkok	86	70	SH
Barbados	84	76	PC
Beijing	43	18	S
Beirut	65	55	S
Berlin	27	25	C
Bermuda	69	66	PC
Budapest	36	27	C
Buenos Aires	90	73	PC
Cairo	70	52	PC
Cancun	83	75	SH
Dubai	77	70	PC
Dublin	46	45	C
Edinburgh	41	37	C
Helsinki	30	25	S
Hong Kong	54	52	C
Istanbul	57	52	PC
Jerusalem	55	45	S
Johannesburg	64	61	R
Kingston	87	73	PC
Lisbon	63	57	SH
London	50	48	SH
Madrid	57	48	SH
Mexico City	78	45	S
Milan	45	37	R
Montreal	16	12	S
Moscow	16	10	S
Nassau	84	68	S
New Delhi	72	55	SH
Paris	54	50	SH
Prague	34	25	C
Rio de Janeiro	90	73	T
Rome	59	45	R
Seoul	32	19	C
Singapore	93	75	T
Stockholm	26	19	PC
Sydney	73	63	SH
Tel Aviv	67	48	S
Tokyo	46	34	PC
Toronto	36	30	SN
Vancouver	21	19	S
Warsaw	23	18	S

KEY: **S** Sunny, **C** Cloudy, **PC** Partly Cloudy, **R** Rain, **SH** Showers, **SN** Snow, **SF** Snow Flurries, **T** T-storms

Weather page produced by WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY Weather Center

LOCAL SCOREBOARD

Monday's high school schedule

BOYS BASKETBALL

NCCC: Windsor Locks at East Granby, 5p.m.
Others: Middletown at Weaver, noon; Whitney Tech at Westbrook, 6:30p.m.
Holiday Tournaments
Rybczyk Tournament (Plainville): SMSA vs. Stafford, 12:30p.m.; Terryville vs. Plainville, 4:30p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Goodwin Tech): Kaynor Tech vs. Abbott Tech, 4p.m.; Wilcox Tech vs. Goodwin Tech, 7p.m.
Art Kohs Classic (Xavier): Waterford vs. Glastonbury, 5:30p.m.; Valley Regional vs. Xavier, 7:15p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Pomperaug): Staples vs. Immaculate, 4p.m.; E.O. Smith vs. Pomperaug, 6p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Wamogo): Lewis Mills vs. Canton, 5p.m.; Suffield vs. Wamogo, 7p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Platt Tech): Sheehan vs. Foran, 5:30p.m.; Bullard-Havens vs. Platt Tech, 7p.m.
Cowboy Class (Litchfield): Woodland vs. Seymour, 5p.m.; Thomaston vs. Litchfield, 6:30 p.m.
Holiday Tourney (O'Brien Tech): Housatonic vs. Gilbert, 5p.m.; Wolcott Tech vs. O'Brien Tech, 7 p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Grasso Tech): Wheeler vs. Montville, 4p.m.; Norwich Tech vs. Grasso Tech, 6p.m.
Fairfield Holiday Classic (Warde): Notre Dame-Fairfield vs. Fairfield Warde, 6p.m.; Fairfield Ludlowe vs. Fairfield Prep, 8p.m.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-**Inter:** Bloomfield at Lewis Mills, 5:30p.m.
Others: Wilby at Maloney, 1:30p.m.; Killingly at Sheehan, 3:30p.m.; East Catholic at Sacred Heart Academy, 5p.m.; Middletown at Lyman Hall, 6p.m.
Holiday Tournaments
Rybczyk Tournament (Plainville): Stafford vs. SMSA, 2:30p.m.; Platt vs. Plainville, 6:30p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Goodwin Tech): Kaynor Tech vs. Abbott Tech, 2:30p.m.; Wilcox Tech vs. Goodwin Tech, 5:30p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Ridgefield): Newington vs. Newtown, 3p.m.; John Jay (N.Y.) vs. Ridgefield, 5p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Montville): Wheeler vs. Montville, 11a.m.; Old Saybrook vs. Norwich Tech, 1 p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Notre Dame-Fairfield): Hand vs. New London, 5:15p.m.; Thomaston vs. Notre Dame-Fairfield, 7:15p.m.
Girls Holiday Festival (Danbury War Memorial): New Milford vs. Norwalk, 6p.m.; New Fairfield vs. Danbury, 7:30p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Masuk): Bethel vs. Trumbull, 4:45p.m.; Amity vs. Masuk, 6:30p.m.
Holiday Tourney (Shelton): Ansonia vs. Shelton, 6p.m.

BOYS HOCKEY

CCC-**South:** Northeastern at E.O. Smith/Tolland, 2:30p.m.; Rocky Hill co-op at Southington co-op, 7p.m.
NHC: SGWL at Eastern CT, 3:30p.m.
Others: Wethersfield at Sheehan, 1p.m.; Staples at Enfield co-op, 1p.m.; Tri-Town at Hall, 6:50p.m.

WRESTLING

Others: Xavier at Mid-Hudson Classic, 9a.m.; Hall, Simsbury at Lowell Holiday Tournament, time TBA

TRACK AND FIELD

Others: Windsor at Boston Holiday Classic, noon
Tuesday's college schedule

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Hartford at Cornell, 2p.m.
UConn at Xavier, 7p.m.
Yale at St. Mary's, 10p.m.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Army at Yale, 5p.m.

MEN'S HOCKEY

'Kwik Mart Holiday Face-Off (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
Yale vs. Wisconsin, 8:30p.m.

AHL

Atlantic	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Springfield	25	17	7	2	1	33	.660
Hartford	23	13	6	2	2	30	.652
Providence	22	11	7	3	1	26	.591
Hershey	24	12	9	2	1	27	.563
Charlotte	27	14	11	2	0	30	.556
W-B/Scranton	22	9	10	1	2	21	.477
Bridgeport	28	10	14	1	3	24	.429
Lehigh Valley	24	7	11	4	2	20	.417
North	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Utica	21	18	1	2	0	38	.905
Rochester	23	15	8	0	0	30	.652
Laval	24	12	10	2	0	26	.542
Cleveland	24	10	8	3	3	26	.542
Toronto	21	10	9	1	1	22	.524
Belleville	22	11	11	0	0	22	.500
Syracuse	21	8	10	2	1	19	.452
Central	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Chicago	26	20	4	1	1	42	.808
Manitoba	25	15	9	1	0	31	.620
Iowa	23	10	10	2	1	21	.500
Rockford	24	11	11	1	1	24	.500
Milwaukee	27	12	13	2	0	26	.481
Grand Rapids	23	9	10	3	1	22	.478
Texas	23	8	11	3	1	20	.435
Pacific	GP	W	L	OTL	SOL	PTS	PCT
Stockton	23	18	2	2	1	39	.848
Ontario	21	14	5	1	1	30	.714
Henderson	22	12	7	2	1	27	.614
Tucson	21	10	9	2	0	22	.524
Abbotsford	22	10	9	2	1	23	.523
Colorado	26	11	11	2	2	26	.500
Bakersfield	19	7	8	1	3	18	.474
San Jose	24	10	13	1	0	21	.438
San Diego	22	9	12	1	0	19	.432

Monday's schedule
Rockford at Iowa, 7p.m.
Hershey at W-B/Scranton, 7p.m.
Bakersfield at San Jose, 10p.m.

BIG EAST BASKETBALL

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
Providence	1-0	1.000	11-1	.917
Creighton	1-0	1.000	9-3	.750
Xavier	1-1	.500	11-2	.846
UConn	1-1	.500	10-3	.769
Villanova	1-1	.500	8-4	.667
DePaul	0-0	.000	9-1	.900
Seton Hall	0-0	.000	9-1	.900
St. John's	0-0	.000	8-3	.727
Butler	0-0	.000	7-4	.636
Georgetown	0-0	.000	6-5	.545
Marquette	0-2	.000	8-5	.615

Tuesday's schedule
UConn at Xavier, 7p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team	CONF	CPCT	OVR	PCT
DePaul	3-0	1.000	11-3	.786
Creighton	3-0	1.000	8-3	.727
UConn	1-0	1.000	6-3	.667
Marquette	2-1	.667	9-3	.750
Georgetown	1-1	.500	6-4	.600
St. John's	1-1	.500	5-6	.455
Seton Hall	1-2	.333	6-5	.545
Providence	1-2	.333	6-6	.500
Villanova	0-2	.000	5-5	.500
Xavier	0-2	.000	5-6	.455
Butler	0-2	.000	1-10	.091

Wednesday's schedule
Butler at Xavier, 2p.m.

HOCKEY EAST

MEN'S

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
UMass Lowell	16	10-3-3	11	8-2-1	25
UMass	15	9-4-2	11	7-2-2	24
Northeastern	18	13-4-1	11	7-3-1	23
Providence	21	14-7-0	11	6-5-0	19
Boston College	16	8-5-3	10	5-3-2	19
Boston University	18	6-9-3	13	5-5-3	17
UConn	14	8-6-0	9	5-4-0	14
Merrimack	16	6-9-1	10	3-7-0	12
New Hampshire	17	7-9-1	11	3-7-1	9
Vermont	16	3-11-2	10	2-6-2	8
Maine	17	2-11-4	11	1-8-2	7

Tuesday's schedule
'Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
Bowling Green vs. Providence, 4p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
Northeastern	19	16-2-1	14	11-2-1	35
Boston University	18	9-6-3	15	8-4-3	27
UConn	20	14-4-2	13	8-3-2	25
Boston College	18	10-8-0	13	8-5-0	21
Vermont	18	9-7-2	11	6-4-1	19
Providence	17	7-5-5	10	4-4-2	16
Maine	19	6-12-1	12	4-7-1	16
New Hampshire	19	6-11-2	13	4-8-1	15
Merrimack	20	5-14-1	15	4-10-1	15
Holy Cross	17	3-14-0	12	1-11-0	3

Friday's schedule
Vermont at Providence, 1p.m.

ECAC HOCKEY

MEN'S

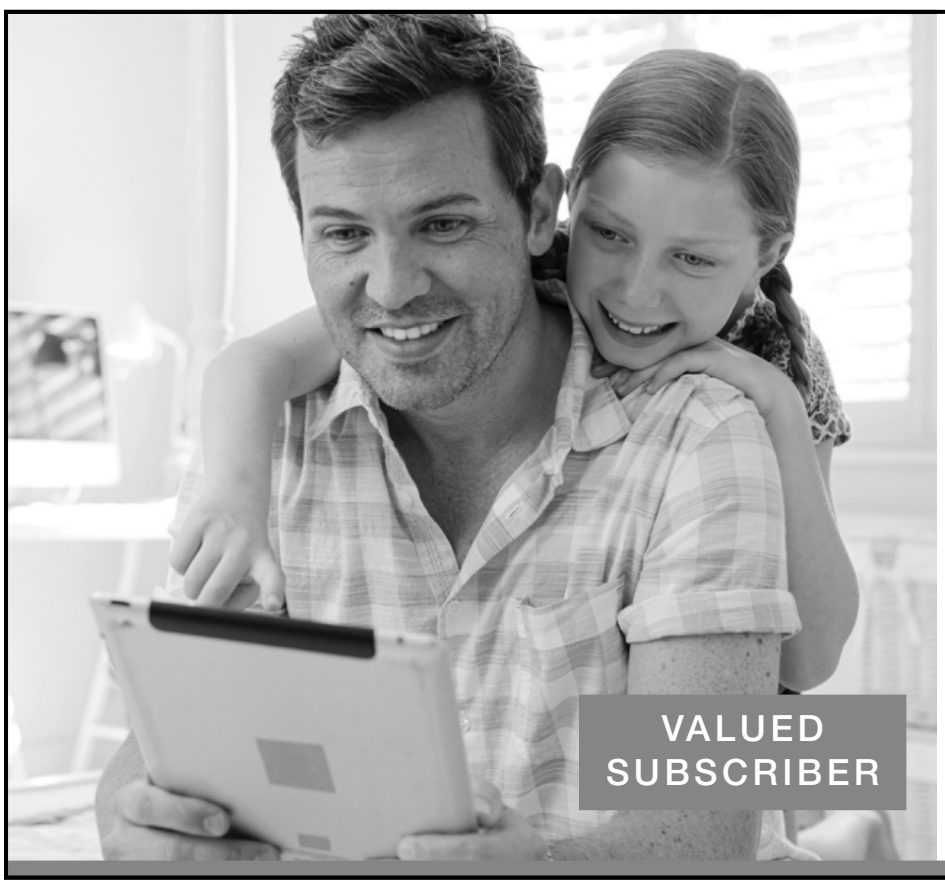
Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
Cornell	11	9-1-1	8	6-1-1	18
Quinnipiac	18	14-1-3	6	5-0-1	17
Harvard	11	6-4-1	8	5-2-1	17
Clarkson	19	9-6-4	8	4-2-2	16
Rensselaer	19	8-9-2	8	4-4-0	12
St. Lawrence	15	4-7-4	8	3-3-2	12
Brown	12	3-9-0	9	3-6-0	10
Colgate	18	8-10-0	8	3-5-0	9
Union	17	5-9-3	8	3-4-1	8
Princeton	13	3-9-1	6	2-4-0	7
Dartmouth	10	2-8-0	7	2-5-0	7
Yale	10	3-7-0	8	2-6-0	5

Tuesday's schedule
'Kwik Trip Holiday Face-Off (Milwaukee, Wisc.)
Yale at Wisconsin, 7:30p.m.

WOMEN'S

Team	OGP	OVR	CGP	CONF	CPTS
Quinnipiac	18	15-1-2	8	7-1-0	21
Harvard	12	9-3-0	9	6-3-0	19
Clarkson	20	15-2-3	8	6-1-1	18.5
Princeton	14	6-5-3	8	5-2-1	16.5
Yale	14	10-3-1	8	5-2-1	16.5
Colgate	19	14-4-1	8	5-2-1	14.5
St. Lawrence	20	7-8-5	8	3-3-2	12
Rensselaer	19	6-13-0	10	3-7-0	11
Cornell	11	4-6-1	8	3-4-1	10.5
Dartmouth	15	7-8-0	9	2-7-0	6
Brown	15	1-12-2	8	1-6-1	4.5
Union	21	4-16-1	10	1-9-0	3

Friday's schedule
Minnesota-Duluth at Harvard, 2p.m.



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